

Abstract Submitted  
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**Sparking Women's Interest in Physics through Science Education** ALIYA MERALI, S.A. WISSEL, M. ORTIZ, J.T. MORGAN, A. ZWICKER, Princeton Plasma Physics Lab — As of 2010, less than 10% of the members of the APS division of plasma physics are female. Data from a 2005 AIP publication indicate that a lack of female presence in physics exists as early as high school and is perpetuated throughout the educational careers of women. Of the undergraduate programs run by PPPL, 16% of participants are female, and only 11% of participants that continue on to graduate school are female. In an effort to increase the exposure of young women to physics, we have expanded existing programs and initiated new programs such as a mentorship program and an energy focused essay contest. The goal of these programs is to bridge the gap between young and established women in science in order to increase young women's interest in the field of physics and thus increase the likelihood that they will continue on to study higher-level physics. Using data collected from participant surveys we have assessed the short-term effectiveness of PPPL programs in influencing young women to pursue careers in science and plasma physics. *Ivie and Ray. AIP Publication Number R-430.02 (February 2005)*

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