MAR06-2005-000437

Abstract for an Invited Paper for the MAR06 Meeting of the American Physical Society

The AAPT/PTRA Program: Professional Development for Pre-College Physics Teachers Hosted by College and University Physics Departments WARREN HEIN, American Association of Physics Teachers

The American Association of Physics Teacher's Physics Teaching Resource Agents (AAPT/PTRA) program has a twenty year history of providing professional development for in-service pre-college physics and physical science teachers. More than 500 teachers have been prepared through NSF-funded summer institutes to provide professional development for their peers in a wide variety of venues ranging from urban, inner-city classrooms to classrooms in low population rural areas. A wide variety of inquiry-based, active engagement workshops have been developed that can assist in-service teachers at all experience and preparation levels, from new and crossover teachers to those who have taught for many years. AAPT/PTRA presenters are typically active physics teachers who share lessons learned in their classrooms on how to adopt research-based practices. College and university physics and astronomy departments interested in providing in-service professional development for pre-college teachers in their geographic areas can enter into agreement with the AAPT/PTRA program to utilize the services of these trained professional development providers. United States Department of Education Math and Science Partnership funds that are allocated to each state are an excellent source of funds that physics and astronomy departments can use to support this type of professional development for physics and physical science teachers. An example of a funded program currently in place in Texas will be presented. AAPT/PTRA program is currently funded by NSF grant # ESI-0138617.