

Abstract Submitted  
for the MAR15 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Engaging undergraduates in interdisciplinary science during a pre-orientation camp**<sup>1</sup> JENNIFER HEATH, CATHERINE REINKE, MICHAEL CROSSER, ANNE KRUCHTEN, Linfield College — The Interdisciplinary First-Year Orientation Camp for Undergraduate Sciences (iFOCUS) was created three years ago at Linfield College. Foremost, we looked to create a supportive community to enhance the recruitment, retention, and success of science students—all students, and especially students from non-traditional backgrounds. We saw the close knit community of athletes that came together during pre-orientation practices. Could a community of science students come together with similar enthusiasm and energy? And, we were also looking for a way to expose first year students to a scientific way of thinking, embracing open-ended, research oriented, interdisciplinary problems. After the camp is over, iFOCUS students frequently join faculty research laboratories, they draw in additional students to ongoing learning communities, and a seminar series brings in outside speakers. I will discuss the program initiatives and outcomes, which have been especially useful to physics—where building an enthusiastic peer network and addressing misconceptions about science in general, and physics in particular, seem to be especially useful.

<sup>1</sup>Supported by the Hearst Foundation

Jennifer Heath  
Linfield Coll

Date submitted: 14 Nov 2014

Electronic form version 1.4