Cal Poly Pomona PhysTEC Program: Impacts and Outcomes
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During the past four years, Cal Poly Pomona PhysTEC program has positively affected the department, faculty, and students in many aspects. For example, utilizing the Learning Assistant (LA) program has served as a mechanism for recruiting and preparing physics majors for careers in teaching. Not only has the LA program benefit the Learning Assistants by providing them with early teaching experiences, it also has benefited the department by accelerating the course transformation and enhancing students’ engagement in physics classrooms. Finally, the LA seminar course and related outreach activities have increased the visibility of Physics Education Research (PER) in the department. We will report on the various outcomes of the PhysTEC program from the following aspects: high school physics teacher recruitment; course transformation efforts; student learning outcomes; and shifting department culture on teaching and learning physics.