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Excellence in Physics Education Award Talk: Evolving Evaluation and Evidence

KAREN MATSLER, PTR A

AAPT/PTRA institutes were part of the first NSF projects encouraged to design rigorous evaluations to determine the characteristic of effective professional development. The evaluation of the AAPT/PTRA program has evolved from documenting the number of teachers attending daily workshops to documenting gains in content understanding and confidence by conducting comparison study groups for over 30 institutes across the nation. Components of the current AAPT/PTRA evaluation model include documentation of teacher gains in content understanding, confidence, use of technology, changes in classroom practice, and student achievement. This talk will reflect on the evaluation components, the inherent challenges, components that were successful, and lessons learned. Results of the data collected on over 1000 teachers since 2003 will be shared.