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Abstract for an Invited Paper
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Improv Improves Learning, Part I¹

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Have you ever struggled to communicate a physics concept to someone? Have you ever felt under pressure in a learning situation, either as a professor or as a student? Stressors can either hinder or enhance our ability to learn and teach depending on how we respond. To quote Alan Alda, "Effective science communication happens when we listen and connect. It happens when we use empathy." In this interactive session, building on years of experience coaching science faculty and scientists, we will apply improvisational theater (improv) techniques to enhance learning and teaching. We will experiment, as scientists, with nonverbal body language, perceptions of status, and replacing fear of the unknown with enjoyable exploration. All are welcome to join us for a laughter-filled laboratory that is sure to deliver "aha" moments! (Note: This is Part I of a 2-part session.)

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