Updates on a New AIP Survey and Revised Two-Year College Physics Program Guidelines: Informing the Two-Year College Community

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**Why a new survey?**

The last American Institute of Physics (AIP) Survey of Physics in Two-Year Colleges was undertaken in 2011. In contrast, AIP conducts an annual survey of degree-granting physics departments, which suggests that our knowledge and understanding of physics programs and enrollments at TYCs is severely outdated in relation to knowledge of programs at 4-year colleges and universities. The 2011 survey (reported in 2012) showed that the proportion of students taking physics at TYCs was growing. The physics community needs to know more about those students and programs.

**What comes next?**

Part 1 of the survey, for department chairs/leads, was released in Spring 2023, with Part 2 for faculty due for release in Spring 2024. The first results from Part 1 of the survey should be released in Fall 2023/Spring 2024. The results from Part 2 will start to be released 9-12 months after the survey ends. TYC physics and astronomy faculty should be looking for the survey announcement in their email in 2024. For more information contact OPTYC's@AAPT.org.

**Guidelines for Two-Year College Physics**

The Guidelines for Two-Year College Physics Programs was published in 2002 by the American Association for Physics Teachers. This initiative was undertaken by the Committee for Physics at Two-Year Colleges.

Since 2002, over 20 years of Physics Education Research and the increase in online instruction have done much to change not only what we teach, but how we teach our physics classes. Because of these changes, the Guidelines are outdated and in need of revision. The OPTYCs team has undertaken the task of bringing the Guidelines up to date.

**What are we doing?**

A team from OPTYCs has partnered with AIP to create a new survey in two parts: Part 1 for department chairs/leads, and Part 2 for faculty. The new survey was informed by the previous surveys from 1995 and 2012, so that comparisons of data over time can be made. New questions that relate to changes in the physics education environment were also included, such as online and hybrid instructional modalities, studio-style courses, and specialized courses such as physics for life sciences.

**What comes next?**

The Guidelines Revision Team will be working on their recommendations over the next year. Once their recommendations are complete, a draft document will be created and returned to the team for review. The next step will be to submit the document to the Committee on Physics at Two-Year Colleges for their approval, at which point it will be sent to the AAPT Executive Board for final approval and publication. It is expected that the new Guidelines will be published in 2025.