The Organization for Physics at Two-Year Colleges

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Chesapeake Section AAPT Meeting
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What is OPTYCs?

The Organization for Physics at Two-Year Colleges

• NSF grant (#2212807): July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026
• $3 million to create and sustain a national community
  • In-person travel
  • Participant stipends for projects
  • Honoraria for facilitators
• Administered under AAPT

• 4 co-PIs + 9 Program Coordinators
• 5 Advisory Board Members & External Evaluation Team
We envision a future in which TYC physics faculty and students THRIVE.

TYC faculty are embraced within and empowered by an inclusive national physics community.

TYC students experience excellent evidence-based physics instruction which prepares them for their future endeavours.
## Our Programs & Deliverables

1. Continuing Professional Development Workshops
2. PER Translation & Facilitation
3. Mentoring & Networking
4. New Faculty Development Series
5. Leadership Institute
6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Capacity-Building Program
7. Tandem Meetings
8. TYC Program Guidelines
9. AIP Survey
10. Digital Library & Archive

**Goal:** Community and programs are sustained beyond grant

https://OPTYCs.aapt.org
Highlights from Year 1: Events

- 30 professional development workshops
- 8 PER journal club discussions
- TYC Tandem Meeting (Sacramento, CA)
  - “Meeting-in-a meeting”
  - 77 participants
  - 9 workshops
  - 35 posters
Highlights from Year 1: Products

- Website was created (https://OPTYCs.aapt.org)
  → Continue to expand and update

- AIP SRC Survey Part 1: TYC Physics Programs (Spring 2023)
  → Part 2: TYC Physics & Astronomy faculty (Spring 2024)

- TYC Physics Program Guidelines revision team has researched and collated best practices
  → Organizing and writing in Year 2
Highlights from Year 1: Programs

• **Mentoring & Networking** (traditional and mutual mentoring)
  - 5 groups were formed

• **New Faculty Development Series** cohort 1:
  - 16-month program for those in their first 6 years of TYC teaching
  - 19 new faculty, 4 alumni leaders, 4 program coordinators
  - April-May: Virtual journal discussions
  - June: 3-day Immersion conference (Omaha, NE)
  - Now: Implementation phase with mentoring
Highlights from Year 1: Feedback

**OPTYC has helped me...**

- **Share my ideas about teaching**: 64% Agree, 87% Strongly agree
- **Get ideas about teaching**: 79% Agree, 82% Strongly agree
- **Expand my prof. network**: 87% Agree, 82% Strongly agree
- **Get to know people**: 82% Agree, 82% Strongly agree

Professional Development

Networking
“A nationwide effort like OPTYCs is long overdue.”

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“I didn't realize how much I'd needed this.”

“OPTYCs is making me feel like a valued professional instead of a leftover.”
Year 2: Broaden & Deepen Participation

Percent of respondents (N=40) **unaware** of specific OPTYC's resources

- The TYC Physics Google Group: 35%
- The AAPT Guidelines for Two-Year College Physics Programs: 28%
- SPOTLIGHT newsletter: 18%
- Resources on OPTYC's website: 15%
- OPTYC's website: 10%

https://OPTYC's.aapt.org
Year 2: Mentorship & Networking Program

Reduce Isolation & Improve Networking

- Traditional Mentoring
- Horizontal Mentoring (3-5 peers all seeking and providing guidance)
- Affinity Groups (time-limited focus on project or topic)

Get involved

- Sign up on the website https://OPTYCs.aapt.org
- Reach out to us with request for a specific focus
Year 2: Leadership Institute

12-month training program on effecting change
• Virtual discussions and sessions for mentoring
• In-person training (AAPT Winter Meeting, New Orleans)
• Inspired by Project Kaleidoscope

2013 Cohort
Year 2: DEI Capacity-Building Program

Immersive 2-year cohort-based change series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024 Jan 6-7</td>
<td>Immersion Retreat (New Orleans, AAPT Winter Meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Implementation Phase (virtual supports)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025 Jan</td>
<td>Dissemination and Leadership Training (Location TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Dissemination to Community (virtual supports)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2026 Jan</td>
<td>Closing Virtual Gathering</td>
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Spots are still available! [https://OPTYCs.aapt.org](https://OPTYCs.aapt.org)
Upcoming Events – Register Today!

Workshops & PER discussions are **virtual, free, and open to all**

- **Physics for Life Sciences:**
  - PER Sharing Session (27-Oct, 3pm-4pm ET)
  - Physics Activities Workshop (4-Nov 12pm-3pm ET)

- **The Physics Teacher:**
  - How to publish an article in TPT (28-Oct 12pm-2pm ET)
  - How to write for the AstroNotes column (3-Nov 5pm-6pm ET)

- **Introductory Labs:**
  - Alternatives to Lab Reports Sharing Session (17-Nov 3pm-4pm ET)
  - PER Results about Labs (1-Dec 4pm-5pm ET)

https://OPTYCs.aapt.org
You do not need to be TYC to participate

Website
https://OPTYCs.aapt.org

YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/@optycs5337

Newsletter
https://optycs.aapt.org/spotlight/

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