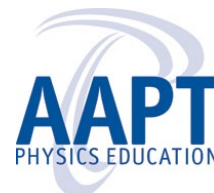


The Organization for Physics at Two-Year Colleges

Kris Lui, OPTYCs Director & PI
Chesapeake Section AAPT Meeting

21-Oct-2023

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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>

On-going

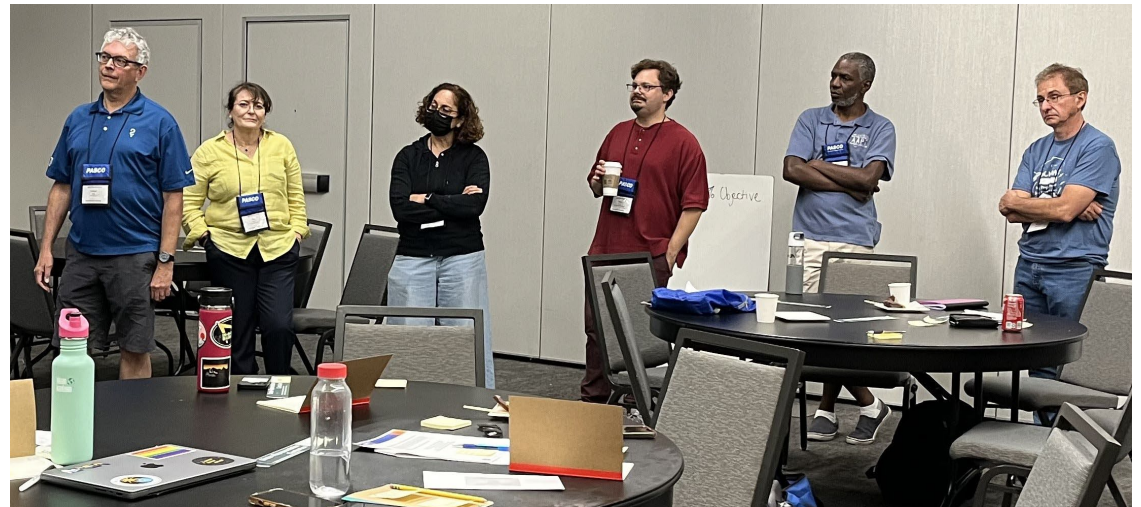
Cohort Programs

Deliverables



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

OPTYCs has helped me...

Share my ideas about teaching



Get ideas about teaching



Expand my prof. network



Get to know people



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Agree Strongly agree

Professional
Development

Networking

Highlights from Year 1: Feedback

"A nationwide effort like OPTYCs is long overdue."

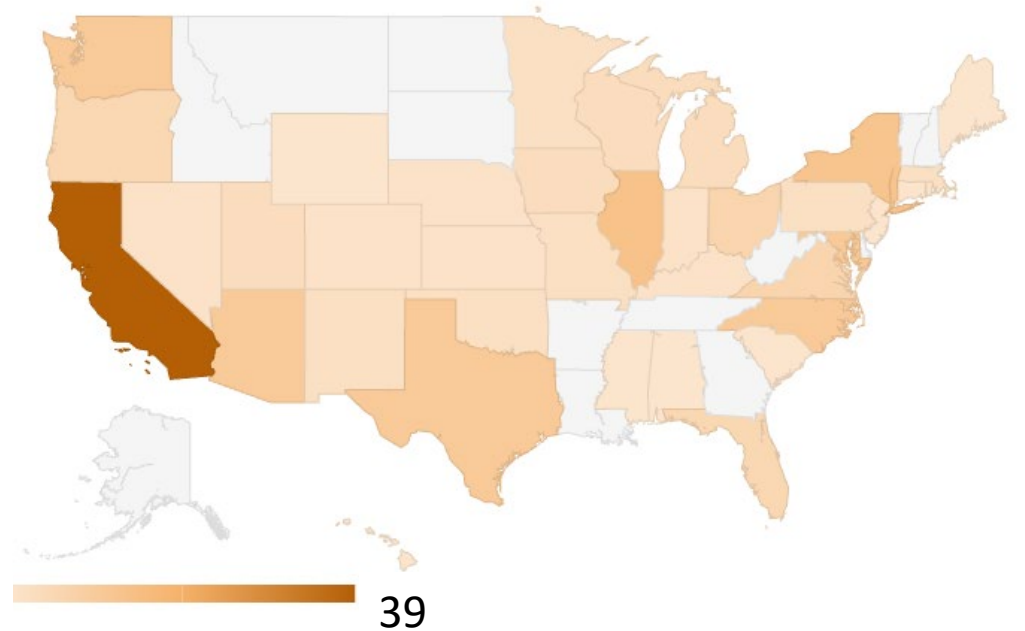
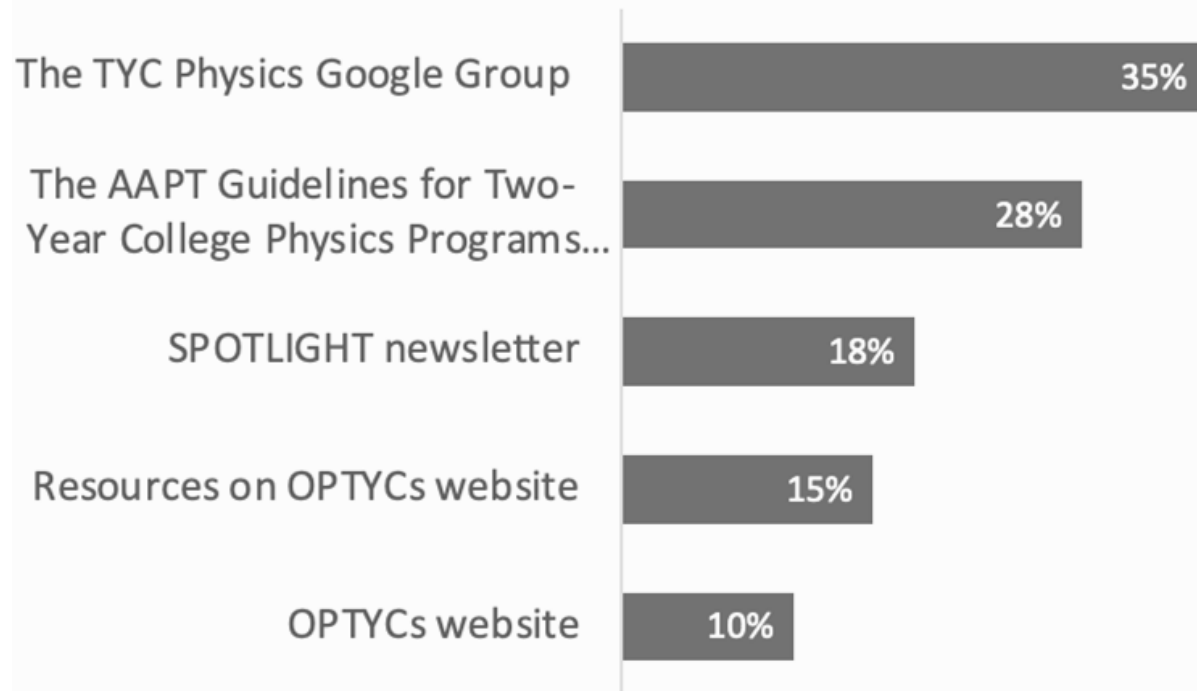
"OPTYCs is making me feel like a valued professional instead of a leftover."

"I didn't realize how much I'd needed this."



Year 2: Broaden & Deepen Participation

Percent of respondents (N=40) **unaware** of specific OPTYCs resources



<https://OPTYCs.aapt.org>



OPTYCs



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



2024 Jan 6-7	Immersion Retreat (New Orleans, AAPT Winter Meeting)
2024	Implementation Phase (virtual supports)
2025 Jan	Dissemination and Leadership Training (Location TBD)
2025	Dissemination to Community (virtual supports)
2026 Jan	Closing Virtual Gathering

Spots are still available!

<https://OPTYCs.aapt.org>



OPTYCs



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)

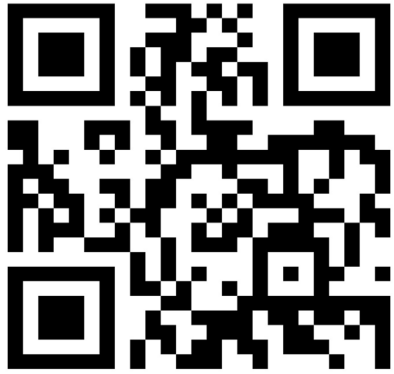
<https://OPTYCs.aapt.org>



OPTYCs



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/>

Kris Lui – The Organization for Physics at Two-Year Colleges

KLui@aapt.org | OPTYCs@aapt.org

