

Physics Department Seminar

January 31st, Friday at 2 PM in Science Building Room 250

Supporting Physics Departments for Planning and Implementing Transformational Change

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As part of the Effective Practices for Physics Programs (EP3) initiative, a joint effort of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers, we have been running Departmental Action Leadership Institutes (DALIs), which support physics faculty members and their departments in implementing changes to their undergraduate programs. Each participating program chooses a pair of faculty members to act as change leaders, who attend ongoing DALI meetings for one year to learn about and implement effective change practices. These pairs are charged with leading cross-constituency teams in their departments, following the Departmental Action Team (DAT) model. The

DALI supports the change leaders in developing skills around engaging in a change effort, supporting a high-functioning team, interfacing with external stakeholders, and developing change agency. In this presentation, we will share the essential factors for the success of DALI through the experiences of ~25 change leaders and their DATs across four cohorts of DALI. We will discuss outcomes experienced by the change leaders and their departments, including improved facilitation skills, increased partnership with students, and improved sense-making about data. Additionally, we will share change leaders' experiences of factors that impacted the sustainability of their change efforts.