

## PhysTEC Teacher Preparation Program to Fund Four New Sites

### *Four new sites to become national models in crucial physics teacher preparation program*

The Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC) will fund four new sites at five universities to develop their physics teacher education programs into national models. The new projects are Rowan University, Texas State University, West Virginia University, and a joint University of Northern Colorado/ Colorado School of Mines project.

The winning institutions were selected during a two-stage review process that began with a pool of 17 applicants. Awardees demonstrated a capacity for large increases in the number of physics teachers graduating from their programs, as well as strong departmental and institutional support for teacher preparation efforts. Funding for the new sites will begin in Fall 2015.

With the addition of the newly funded sites, the project has funded a total of 45 sites to build physics teacher education programs since it began in 2001. Collectively, these institutions have doubled the number of high school physics teachers graduating from their programs. PhysTEC sites have achieved these successes by increasing teacher recruiting efforts; hiring master teachers to work within physics departments; developing engaging early teaching experiences; improving content and pedagogy courses; and fostering collaboration between physics departments, education schools, and local school districts.

Monica Plisch, Director of PhysTEC and APS Associate Director of Education and Diversity, says, "We were pleased to have received such strong proposals that promise to develop new models for physics teacher education." Texas State is the first PhysTEC site in Texas and a Hispanic serving institution. The UNC/CSM partnership is the first multi-institution site, which brings together a leading teacher education institution with a technically focused university. West Virginia University has also been awarded a new UTeach grant, which will to strengthen its science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teacher preparation programs. The PhysTEC program will enhance the physics teacher preparation component. Rowan University has a thriving undergraduate physics program that offers a strong foundation for the PhysTEC program.

PhysTEC, a flagship education program of the American Physical Society (APS), aims to improve the education of future physics teachers by transforming physics departments, creating successful models for physics teacher education programs, and disseminating best practices. (See [www.phystec.org](http://www.phystec.org) for more details). The PhysTEC program is led by APS in partnership with the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), with support from the National Science Foundation. For more information, contact [Monica Plisch](#), Director of PhysTEC and APS Associate Director of Education and Diversity.

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About APS

The American Physical Society ([www.aps.org](http://www.aps.org)) is a non-profit membership organization working to advance and diffuse the knowledge of physics through its outstanding research journals, scientific meetings, and education, outreach, advocacy and international activities. APS represents over 50,000 members, including physicists in academia, national laboratories and industry in the United States and throughout the world. Society offices are located in College Park, MD (Headquarters), Ridge, NY, and Washington, DC.