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Carol Hood TSSA Winter 2013

Carol Hood

CSUSB, chood@csusb.edu

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TSSA 2013-2014 Grant Award Report

Carol Hood, Physics

Name of Conference Attended:

AAPT New Physics & Astronomy Faculty Workshop

Teaching Strategy Studied: Many!

- Think-Pair-Share (TPS)/Peer Instruction/Clicker questions
- Small Group Work
- Assessment
- Guided Inquiry Tutorials
- Interactive Lecture Demonstrations
- Structured Problem Solving
- Just-in-Time Teaching (JiTT)

Impact on/How Applied to Current Teaching:

In my astronomy classes, I have already been using some of these techniques (Guided Inquiry Tutorials, TPS questions) for many years. As a result of my participation in this workshop, I have added JiTT assignments to have the students begin to think about the day's material before arriving the class. Basically, having them boot their mental computers ahead of time, so to speak. I hope to modify their labs at some point in the future to follow a more guided inquiry approach, as well.

This workshop had the biggest effect on my instruction in our intro. calc-based physics sequence. Each quarter, I have been implementing a new technique into the instruction. In the spring, I started with TPS questions, small group work, and assessment. The assessment was ungraded and is used just to give me an idea as to how well my implementation is going. This quarter, I have continued with the previous techniques, and added in JiTT and thanks to a Peer Lab grant, voluntary guided inquiry tutorials. My colleague Laura Woodney is team-teaching this course (2 sections) with me and has included a few interactive lecture demonstrations this quarter. It is too soon to tell how well the strategies have been implemented, but the results are promising! Next quarter, I will modify things a bit, but I am hoping to build some structured problem-solving into the lecture component.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend this workshop and am already looking and thinking about what strategies will work best in my future courses. Thank you!