

TYC TIDBITS | SEPTEMBER 01 2024

Inaugural TYC Tidbits column

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Inaugural TYC Tidbits column

Welcome to the inaugural column of TYC Tidbits in *The Physics Teacher*. The idea for this column came from The Organization for Physics at Two-Year Colleges (OPTYCs; <https://optycs.aapt.org>) as a way to get information about physics at two-year colleges (TYCs) to the TYC community and, probably just as importantly, to the broader physics teaching community.

This column will highlight and feature TYC physics and astronomy teaching faculty's impact on their students, professional development opportunities, and programs designed for TYC faculty. The outcomes of these programs will also be shared with the physics community so that the impact of those opportunities goes beyond those who were able to attend.

Another important goal of this column will be to share the work and importance of the TYC community to the broader physics teaching community. For example, you will get the opportunity to learn what percentage of college students take

their introductory physics course(s) at a TYC! You'll also get the answers to some important questions about two-year college physics programs. What are the demographics of TYC physics students? What courses are offered at a TYC? What makes a TYC physics program unique from our four-year college/university counterparts? What are some examples of effective collaborations between TYCs and four-year colleges/universities? What can we learn about and from others who are teaching physics at the college level? Look for answers to these questions in future columns. Hopefully, by sharing these opportunities and highlighting data and TYC programs, we will be able to help physics teachers at all levels better appreciate the unique challenges and strengths we have and to make meaningful connections with each other.

So as we ramp up this column, please become a loyal reader, and please feel free to reach out to the column editors, Kris Lui, Sherry Savrda, and Dwain Desbien, with suggestions and ideas for this column. In the meantime, we encourage you to look at the OPTYCs website to see what we are up to and get involved!



TYC Tidbits are short articles featuring topics about or for two-year college physics and astronomy. To submit, please email us at klui@aapt.org, savrda@ret.seminolestate.edu, and dwain.desbien@estrellamountain.edu.