## Physics Department Seminar

Friday April 14th, 2000 11:00am in PhSc 105

## "Physics Education: An Overview"

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## Abstract:

Physics education has emerged over the past 30 years into an interesting and compelling study of the science of teaching physics. The number of doctoral graduates in physics education is few, yet in the past 3 years there has been exponential growth of activity in this field suggesting that we are witnessing the beginning of a new specialty in physics. I will present a brief overview of physics education with emphasis on what research has elucidated about student demographics, student perceptions of physics, and the pedagogical techniques that are being developed to address specific learning difficulties. My own research in physics education at the University of Cincinnati, and the subsequent work with General Studies Thematic at CSUC will serve as an examples of these pedagogical techniques applied to Introductory Astronomy.