

# **Committee on Physics in Two-Year Colleges**

## **2005 Report**

*Sherry Savrda, Chair*

The Committee on Physics in Two-Year Colleges (CPTYC) continues to provide a discussion forum for topics of concern and interest to Two-Year College (TYC) faculty and the larger physics education community. Our meetings continue to be well attended by TYC instructors and friends of the Committee. Both groups represent an active base of non-members that play vital roles in helping the CPTYC maintain its health and define its priorities. The CPTYC list serve remains our primary mode of communication. The CPTYC website, hosted by Ajay Narayanan (Green River Community College), continues to serve as a mode of communication for the wider TYC physics community, including faculty who may not be able to attend national meetings. The Committee continues to sponsor and host the TYC Resource Room at AAPT summer meetings, providing faculty a central, informal meeting location to network, present poster displays, and share ideas.

A major initiative of the Committee over the past year has been the formation of a task force to look into ways in which the Committee can assist TYC faculty in their efforts to obtain grants. The task force visited with program directors at the National Science Foundation to learn what programs were best suited to TYCs, and to gain insight into the ways in which TYC faculty can improve their chances of obtaining funding. The outcomes of the task force to date include a tutorial, co-sponsored with the Professional Concerns and Laboratories Committees, planned for the Summer 2006 National meeting. This tutorial, in which representatives of funding agencies and resource persons from other agencies will discuss grant proposals, will focus on the particular challenges facing TYC faculty, as well as general proposal-writing procedures. The Committee is also forming an informal review panel, which will be available at National meetings to review draft proposals or to discuss grant opportunities with TYC faculty. In order to be better informed to support this endeavor, the task force includes TYC faculty who have successfully obtained grants, and members of the task force have volunteered to serve as members of NSF review panels.

During the past two years, the CPTYC has identified four areas of concern: getting new TYC faculty updated with classroom technology and involved in AAPT, teacher preparation initiatives, active learning strategies, and interdisciplinary topics. The grants task force is one way the Committee is addressing these concerns. Sponsored workshops, sessions, and crackerbarrels have also focused on these areas. The workshop on Engaging Students was a recent successful addition that focused on the needs of new TYC faculty, but was also of interest to high school and university faculty. Future workshops and sessions on teacher preparation, physics and the environment, emerging technologies, and maintaining integrity in college courses will continue to address the concerns and interests of the TYC physics community.