

Incorporation of Career Development Training in the Undergraduate Physics Experience

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Upon graduation, an average of 40% of all physics baccalaureate degree recipients opts to go directly in to the workforce rather than entering graduate school. Despite this data, most physics programs do not intentionally include career development as part of the undergraduate physics experience. Rather, the default focus of many departments is on preparing students for entry into advanced physics degree programs. The American Institute of Physics (AIP) undertook a project (“Career Pathways”) funded by the National Science Foundation in an effort to understand, compile and disseminate effective practices for preparing undergraduate physics students to enter the STEM workforce upon graduation. A set of careers-education resources for students, faculty advisors/mentors and career professionals was developed as part of that funded work. These resources are being used at TLU to engage undergraduate students in career development in both curricular and extracurricular settings, beginning in the first year of study.