

Physics Seminar

Thursday, May 28, 3:00 pm
Science & Engineering Building Room 144

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eTALK: Portable Labs and Online TAs in Intro Mechanics

eTALK, Enhanced Teaching Assistance to aid Learning with Kitlabs, is a teaching laboratory reform under development at NC State University. It offers an alternative to traditional laboratory courses that use proprietary loggers and probes. eTALK instead utilizes students' personal electronic devices, portable kits, and online teaching assistant contact. An eTALK lab thus allows students to focus on the experiment rather than on the mastery of a learning curve associated with unfamiliar probes and equipment. Furthermore, a portable eTALK lab does not sacrifice the important real-time TA interactions that characterize traditional lab courses and are often missing in endeavors to develop distance-learning labs. In addition, a multi-faceted assessment protocol was established to compare eTALK lab sections to traditional sections across a number of criteria. This project has been deployed for two years in calculus-based general physics labs at NC State. An overview of the project, details about the assessment protocol, and results from the project will be presented.