

AAPT Area Committees are now AAPT Communities!

AAPT members are dedicated to excellence in physics education, and there is no better reflection of this than our existing **Area Committees**—now renamed **Communities**—addressing the passions of 18 unique topical groups. **AAPT is expanding the reach and accessibility of these member-based Communities by implementing changes in how they are populated and how they function.**

The details

- ★ **New name to reflect broadening access and engagement:** All 18 current *Area Committee* groups will continue their work, but will be called '*Communities*' to convey these groups are open to all AAPT members. For example, the *Committee on Laboratories* will now be the *Community on Laboratories*.
- ★ **Community activities open to all:** Any AAPT member interested in the work of a specific *Community* is welcome to join, and can be part of multiple *Communities* without the need to be formally appointed. There will no longer be a distinction between 'members' and 'friends' of a *Community*.
- ★ **Sponsored vs. non-sponsored Communities:** Existing *Area Committees* will automatically be classified as sponsored *Communities*; sponsored *Communities* will continue to receive travel funds for Co-Chairs. They will consequently have greater requirements for engagement and reporting than non-sponsored *Communities*. Non-sponsored *Communities* will have fewer requirements but still have dedicated space on our COMMUNITIES online platform and the ability to submit proposals of interest to their *Community* for national meetings.
- ★ **Shared Leadership Opportunities via Community Co-Chairs:** Each sponsored *Community* will have two Co-Chairs serving staggered 2-year terms. Co-Chairs will be determined from within each *Community* (rather than being appointed by the Nominating Committee and Board), and will work with AAPT leadership on behalf of their *Community* members. We are developing a system of recognition for members who are significant contributors to their Community.
- ★ **Opportunity to form new Communities:** Any group of AAPT members can now request to form a new, non-sponsored *Community* in an area of interest. If this new *Community* takes off, they can become a 'rising' group on the path to becoming a sponsored AAPT *Community*.
- ★ **Increased Community engagement beyond in-person events:** We hope that *Community* work will go beyond populating sessions at national meetings—though proposing engaging sessions is still very much desired! Individual AAPT *Communities* are encouraged to foster increased discourse and action through the AAPT online COMMUNITIES platform. Any AAPT member can engage in this work by joining one or more *Communities* online. We hope that this expanded access will encourage *Communities* to organize other events for interested members throughout the year.

Get involved!

Pursue your physics education passion by attending [open](#) AAPT Community meetings during SM25

Monday, August 4th

Open Community Meetings-Round I | 7:45-8:45 am | Grand Hyatt Washington

- ★ 3D Community on Physics in Two-Year Colleges | Declaration A
- ★ 3E Community on Contemporary Physics | Declaration B
- ★ 3F (Joint session) Community on Physics in HS & Community on Physics in Pre-HS | Burnham
- ★ 3G Community on Research in Physics Education | Wilson/Roosevelt
- ★ 3H Community on International Physics Education | Cabin John/Arlington
- ★ 3I Community on Apparatus | Bullfinch/Renwick
- ★ 3J Community on Professional Concerns | Latrobe

Roundtable Discussion | 9:00-10:00 am | Grand Hyatt Washington Salon A/B

- ★ A12 Building Stronger Together: Transforming AAPT Area Committees into Thriving Communities | Join the 2025 Zitzewitz Awardee and SM25 keynote speaker Bree Barnett Dreyfuss to discuss the re-envisioning of AAPT's *Area Committees* into vibrant *AAPT Communities*.

Tuesday, August 5th

Open Community Meetings-Round II | 7:45-8:45 am | Grand Hyatt Washington

- ★ 4F Community on Space Science and Astronomy | Penn Quarter AB
- ★ 4G Community on Teacher Preparation | Wilson/Roosevelt
- ★ 4H Community on Women in Physics | Cabin John/Arlington
- ★ 4J Community on Physics in Undergraduate Education | Latrobe
- ★ 4K Community on Graduate Education in Physics | Franklin/McPherson

Open Community Meetings-Round III | 4:30-5:30 pm | Grand Hyatt Washington

- ★ 4W Community on Educational Technologies | Declaration B
- ★ 4X Community on Science Education for the Public | Penn Quarter AB
- ★ 4Y Community on Diversity in Physics | Cabin John/Arlington
- ★ 4AA Community on Laboratories | Latrobe
- ★ 4BB Community on History and Philosophy in Physics | Franklin/McPherson

Detailed Community Descriptions

Unsure which *Communities* match your interests?

Please follow the link to view more details about individual AAPT *Communities* (formerly AAPT Area Committees).



bit.ly/AAPTCommunities

