



Western University
Department of Physics and Astronomy

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM

Date: THURSDAY, 10th May 2018
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Physics & Astronomy Seminar Room 100

Dr. Paula Heron

Department of Physics
University of Washington

“Improving learning, broadening participation and preparing students for 21st century careers: Multiple roles for physics education research”

ABSTRACT

In North American universities, many students take physics as a requirement for a degree in science, medicine or engineering. Students who see a physics course as a barrier to be overcome in the pursuit of their true interests may be disengaged during instruction. Others steer clear of physics entirely and miss the chance to discover a latent interest or aptitude, in addition to being shut out of many careers. Even students who pursue physics degrees often encounter challenges with the standard undergraduate curriculum, failing to develop skill with disciplinary practices and a deep understanding of concepts and principles. Moreover, many graduate underprepared for pursuits other than further study at the graduate level. In the past few decades an increasing number of physicists have devoted their efforts to research on these problems with results that offer insights for helping attract and retain students, for improving learning, and for preparing students for the workforce.

COFFEE + light snacks will be available in the Atrium, 2nd floor, at 1:15 p.m.