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SAN LUIS OBISPO
Physics Department
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Building Inclusive Physics Classrooms: Practical Strategies for Supporting all Students

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Thursday, January 23, 2025
11:10 am - 12:00 Noon
Building 53, Room 215
Pizza will be served!

Abstract: Physics can be a challenging subject for any student, but for those from underrepresented groups, negative stereotypes and identity threats can create additional barriers to success. In this talk, we'll explore practical, research-based strategies that physics instructors can use to cultivate classroom cultures where all students feel they belong and can thrive. Examples include concrete strategies to foster a growth mindset, to provide constructive feedback while maintaining high standards and trust, and to bridge the gap between school-based approaches to science and the practices of professional researcher. These classroom cues and approaches can help reduce identity threats and build a supportive learning environment. Join us to discover how small changes in teaching practices can make a big difference in helping students succeed and contribute to a more diverse and welcoming physics community.

Bio: Dr. Catherine Good received a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Kansas in 1994 and an Ad Hoc Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in mathematics education and social psychology from The University of Texas at Austin in 2001. While a postdoctoral research fellow at Columbia University from 2001-2005 she developed a research program that focuses on the social forces that shape academic achievement, learning, motivation, and self-image, particularly for females in STEM disciplines. In particular, she studies the effects of stereotype threat and develops interventions to help students overcome its effects. Dr. Good not only focuses on increasing students' sense of belonging to STEM disciplines and fostering incremental views of intelligence as methods of combating the cultural stereotypes, but also on changing the culture of STEM to be more inclusive for all.