

What: PTRA Workshops-“Ranking Tasks” and “TIPERS”

When: Ranking Tasks – Thursday April 15, 2010 3:50-6:50 PM; TIPERS – Thursday April 22, 2010 3:50-6:50 PM

Where: St. Louis Community College at Meramec, Science West Room 206

Cost: If you pay yourself-\$15/workshop to the PTRA continuation fund for a total of \$30 for both workshops. If your school pays-\$30/workshop for a total of \$60 for both workshops. All monies collected will be sent to AAPT to the PTRA continuation fund.

What do I get?: The book “Ranking Tasks in Physics” by Thomas O’Kuma, David Maloney, and Curtis Hieggelke will be handed out at the first workshop and “Electricity and Magnetism Tasks Inspired by Physics Education Research” by the above authors as well as Stephen Kamin will be handed out at the second workshop.

Limit: 15/workshop

Who: Valerie Michael

There were moments in my career where my teaching practice was profoundly changed. First was my introduction to the book “Qualitative Problems for Introductory Physics” by Robert Gibbs. Next came the Ranking Tasks workshops run at AAPT meetings. To add a few more very important ones, there was the PTRA program and the Modeling workshops run at the AAPT meetings as well. The commonality was that these programs used research to guide the practice of teaching. They made me think thoughtfully about what it takes to get a student to deeply understand the ideas underlying physics concepts. They also produced wonderful tools, activities, labs, and demos that showcased a student’s thinking. So I am bringing back these two workshops to entice a few more teachers to try some PER activities with their students with the hope that you also will find your teaching practice changed. In each three hour workshop we will first try out some of the ranking tasks or other TIPERs. We will work in groups using white boards to share our answers as well as our rationales on why we feel our answers are the “correct” ones. We will discuss where it is appropriate to use the tasks in the class setting. We will embed PTRA labs that link to a task and we will share lesson plans on the use of the tasks. Be sure that tasks run from easy high school to some fairly sophisticated beginning college physics. We will form teams that closely relate to our own teaching environments. If you are interested in attending these workshops, please contact me, Valerie Michael, by phone at 636-458-9498 or email at vlfmich@gmail.com to reserve a spot. Because I only have 15 books per workshop to give away at the workshops, you must let me know that you are coming.

Please bring a snack to keep your hunger at bay. I will, as always, whip up a batch of brownies to share. Finally, we must leave at 6:50PM because a lab class will start in our class space. STLCC-Meramec has given us the use of the rooms for free. Thank you STLCC-Meramec Science Department! See you at the workshops.