



Transforming STEM Education at USF

March 9, 2017

2:00-3:30 pm

Grace Allen Room, Library 4th Floor

Noah Finkelstein, Ph.D.

“Taking a Scholarly Route to Institutional Transformation: Theory, Practice, and Tools to Support Educational Improvement”



Noah Finkelstein is a Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder and conducts research in physics education. He serves as a PI of the Physics Education Research (PER) group at the University of Colorado Boulder and is also a co-Director of the Center for STEM Learning on campus, which has become one of eight national demonstration sites for the Association of American Universities’ (AAU) STEM Education Initiative. He also serves as the Co-Director of the national Network of STEM Education Centers.

Finkelstein’s research focuses on studying the conditions that support students’ interest and ability in physics – developing models of context. These research projects range from the specifics of student learning particular concepts, to the departmental and institutional scales of sustainable educational transformation. This research has resulted in over 120 publications.

Finkelstein is increasingly involved in education policy. In 2010, he testified before the U.S. Congress on the state of STEM education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has served on many national boards including chairing both the American Physical Society’s Committee on Education and PER Topical Group. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Higher Learning Commission, is a Technical Advisor to the AAU, and is very involved in the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ efforts in STEM education. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a Presidential Teaching Scholar, and the inaugural Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador for the University of Colorado system.

This continuing series of seminars is part of the USF STEM education project “Systemic Transformation of Education Through Evidence-Based Reforms” (STEER). This project is partially supported by the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence (ATLE), the Coalition for Science Literacy, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of Student Success, and the National Science Foundation (Grants DUE #1324775 and #1525574).