

Physics Education Research Conference 2000: Teacher Education

University of Guelph, August 2-3, 2000

**In tandem with the 2000 summer meeting of the American
Association of Physics Teachers.**

Conference Abstracts

Invited poster breakout sessions

A perspective on teaching physics courses for future elementary-school teachers

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Given typical time constraints, what are realistic expectations for conceptual learning in physics courses for preservice elementary-school teachers? Are there some topics which should be avoided for such courses?

What are the bottom-line tradeoffs between breadth of topical coverage and depth of conceptual learning?

What are possible implications regarding optimum strategies for science education in the elementary schools?

I will offer some reflections on these questions based on data and observations from seven years of experience teaching inquiry-based physics courses for elementary education majors and other nontechnical students.

July 25, 2000