

# Session AB: Task Force on Teacher Preparation in Physics

**Location:** Room 103  
**Sponsor:** Committee on Teacher Preparation  
**Date:** Monday, Feb. 6  
**Time:** 8–9:30 a.m.

*Presider: Stamatis Vokos*

## **AB01: 8–8:30 a.m. Physics Teacher Education in Perspective: A Century of Constrained Evolution**

*Invited – David E. Meltzer, Arizona State University, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Mesa, AZ 85212; david.meltzer@asu.edu*

The National Task Force on Teacher Education in Physics has carried out the most extensive investigation ever reported on the education of U.S. physics teachers. Nonetheless, the challenges related to physics teacher education have been matters of concern to the U.S. physics community for over a century. There have been dozens of relevant reports, research papers, and policy statements, generated by various committees, professional organizations, and university-based researchers. The various findings and recommendations are striking in their consistency and reproducibility; they reveal a constrained evolutionary process with distinct invariant properties. I will outline the history of research and reporting on physics teacher education, and show how our Task Force recommendations are consistent not only with the specific findings of our own extensive investigation, but with the vast body of research and analysis generated by others who have examined these same problems during the past 130 years.