

Session E3: Honoring Lillian Christie McDermott Tuesday, Jan. 17, 11:40 A.M.–1:40 P.M.

Moderator: Paula Heron **Sponsor: Committee on Women in Physics** **Broadway III/IV**

E3-03 (12:40 to 1:10 PM) | Lillian McDermott as Mentor, Model, and Inspiration

Presenting Author: David Meltzer, Arizona State University

Co-presenting Author | Valerie K. Otero, University of Colorado, Boulder

Lillian McDermott had an enormous influence on both of our professional lives and outlooks from the time we first became involved with physics education research. Her focus on using research to inform and guide the development of curricular materials as the basis of improved physics instruction became a central theme of our own work. Her insistence on rigorous assessment of instructional effectiveness and continual iterative improvement served as a standard by which we have measured our own success and that of others. Her pointed question regarding educational research endeavors of “Where is the physics?” has helped direct our attention to the areas in which we as physicists may most effectively marshal our unique knowledge and perspective to advance the teaching and learning of physics. By epitomizing the highest standards of quality and rigor in physics education research, she provided a model to guide and inspire future efforts in the field.