

Jacquelyn Chini – Colloquium Seminar – April 7, 2022
University of Central Florida

Title: Physics Education Research - Accessibility

Abstract:

Supporting Variation in Students' Needs, Abilities and Interests in
Postsecondary STEM Courses

Students naturally vary in their needs, abilities and interests. For some students, these variations result in a medical diagnosis that unlocks legally mandated accommodations. But, providing access to students goes beyond providing these legal accommodations. I will describe a "toy model" for considering the ways in which students likely vary, without needing to know the specific differences each student experiences. Then, I will describe how this model can inform decisions in physics education, from classroom structure to department website design. I will close with describing recent findings about the differential impact on learning during the COVID-19 pandemic across variations in students' needs and abilities.

Bio:

Dr. Jackie Chini (she/her) is an associate professor in physics at the University of Central Florida. She completed her undergraduate degree in physics at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and her graduate degree at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Jackie's research explores how practices and attitudes in the physics community work to broaden or narrow participation.