The Education Research Center (ERC) was recently awarded a contract to conduct an external evaluation of the Mitchell Institute Physics Enhancement Program (MIPEP). 2014 Summer Institute. Jackie Stillisano and Hersh Waxman are principal investigators for the project. Additional ERC researchers involved include Anna Boriack and Kim Wright.

The goal of MIPEP is to improve Texas high school students’ mathematics and science performance by providing rigorous physics training to high school physics teachers from across the state of Texas through intensive, 2-week summer institutes that encompass interactive classes, problem solving, labs, and hands-on demonstrations. Recruitment efforts for the Summer Institute target current high school physics teachers who have little to no background in physics.

Systematic lab and lecture observations, pre- and post-perceptional surveys, pre- and post-content knowledge assessments, and participant reflections will used to examine the impact of the 2014 Summer Institute activities on participants’ knowledge of physics content and research-based instructional practices.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide program feedback to the MIPEP team for a second year,” said Stillisano. “The MIPEP program represents an outreach effort and goal of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Texas A&M University, continuing the department’s history of commitment to improve preK-12 science teaching and learning in Texas schools by providing exemplary professional learning opportunities for teachers.”

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