
ADOPT-A-PHYSICIST PROJECT SUMMARY

Today's physicists aren't cookie-cutter Einsteins bent over notebooks or blackboards. They rarely study the block on the incline plane and most of them don't spend much time drawing circuit diagrams.

Today's physicists are professors, journalists, computer programmers, researchers, lawyers, physicians, managers, engineers, teachers, men, women, Hispanics, Asians, African-Americans, mothers, fathers, neighbors, volunteers, musicians, and rock climbers.

Adopt-a-Physicist aims to introduce high school physics students to the wide variety of careers open to people, and the wide variety of people who study physics.

Physicists and students participating in Adopt-a-Physicist interact for a three week period. Before this period begins, the physicists and classes (via the teachers) each create a profile page on the Adopt-a-Physicist website. Teachers then choose five physicists for each of their participating classes to adopt, preferably from different career categories. By "adopting" a physicist, a teacher is registering his or her class for an online discussion forum hosted by that physicist.

During the three-week period that the discussion forums are open, students are encouraged to talk to their physicist about his or her career, educational background, most interesting projects, etc. Students are expected to report back to their class on their experience at the end of the three weeks. Since each class can have up to five different physicists, each class can hear multiple stories.

Participating Organizations

Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society www.sigmapisigma.org

ComPADRE www.compadre.org

American Association of Physics Teachers www.aapt.org

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