"Engagement in labs: how agency interacts with critical thinking in introductory physics labs"

Abstract:
As physics labs transition towards providing students with more authentic experiences, a key practice is to provide students with more agency (opportunities to make their own decisions to reach their goal). While there are many benefits of agency for student learning and persistence in science, there are many practical implementation issues. In this talk, I’ll discuss ways of increasing available student agency and some of the benefits we’ve seen in various implementations. I’ll also present evidence of the challenges that exist when students take up that agency in ways we don’t expect, such as how expectations and beliefs about labs lead students to engage in questionable research practices.

Monday, April 8, 2019
4:30 PM in SCI 242

Refreshments will be served at 4:20 p.m.