

NCLT SEMINAR

Thursday, February 5, 2009



Professor David N. McIlroy

Department of Physics, University of Idaho

- Professor of Physics, University of Idaho, 1996-present
- Post-Doc, Department of Physics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1993-1996
- PhD in Physics, University of Rhode Island, 1993
- 3 year's experience in industry
- BA Physics, UC Santa Cruz, 1984

Areas of research:

Nanowires, nanosprings –formation, their mechanical, electrical and surface properties. Science education (PI on NSF GK-12 project).

Title:

Rules of Engagement for NSF-GK12 Fellows when working with elementary school kids

Abstract:

Professor David N. McIlroy will present a summary of his observations of NSF-GK12 Fellows and their interactions with elementary schools. There are a variety of challenges in presenting scientific content to this age group and how this impacts fellow's expectations. These range from keeping the kids focused to the fellow's use of scientific terminology. An additional challenge is the incompatibility between evaluation metrics of the State of Idaho and NSF-GK12, which in turn can affect the content of the material NSF-GK12 Fellows present. Prof. McIlroy will also discuss how the aforementioned issues will affect future efforts to integrate nanoscience and nanotechnology into elementary school curriculum.