

## 0.1 Background

My name is Jordan C Hanson, and I am formally submitting my first Professional Evaluation and Growth Plan (PEGP). As required by Whittier College, and in accordance with the regulations in the Whittier College Faculty handbook, the material herein pertains to my first complete academic year as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Being new to the Whittier College community, I have included professional background material to serve as an introduction for those readers to whom I have not yet been introduced. As an undergraduate in the Yale University Department of Physics, I was first exposed to the field of *astroparticle physics*. As a graduate student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UC Irvine, I gained my first experience in physics education.

My professors and colleagues in the professional-track physics program at Yale University inspired me to excel beyond what I thought was possible for myself. I became aware of the world of academic scholarship through students and faculty who had known they would enter this world from from a young age. I fell in love with physics for the beauty of its theoretical simplicity, and the surge of excitement as observations spark to life through hard laboratory work. After college I landed at UC Irvine, where I met Professor Steve Barwick and Professor Stuart Kleinfelder. Dr. Barwick is a professor of physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and Dr. Kleinfelder is a professor of physics in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Together, in cooperation with other graduate students and post-doctoral fellows,

## 0.2 General Reflection and Future Directions