Examining Laboratory Notebook Practices in the Introductory Lab

Laboratory notebooks are significant records of research to show what a researcher did, how they did it, and what data were collected from the experiment. The *AAPT Laboratory Recommendations* emphasize the importance of helping students develop good laboratory notebook practices throughout the undergraduate curriculum. Learning proper lab notebook practices is important in preparing for graduate school and the STEM workforce. Laboratory notebooks are also important for instructors when assessing students understanding of the laboratory. This study tracks students’ progression through introductory physics lab courses in developing the necessary notebook practices for success in the laboratory. This research was conducted through a series of student surveys given in undergraduate physics classes. A pre-survey and a post-survey were given covering topics of how students use lab notebooks, how they learned those practices, and how they feel about doing those practices. This presentation will discuss the changes in laboratory notebook beliefs and practices of students through three semesters of introductory lab work. Also, preliminary results on what methods of training are most beneficial to students’ will be shared.