“Finding FOCIS: A Framework for Examining Student Engagement through Learning Activities”

Dr. Robert H. Tai
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12:00 – 1:30 pm
Harrington Tower 801A

Abstract
Student engagement is an essential component of instruction. Much attention in science education has focused on student attitudes and interest in science-related content. This presentation will discuss an alternative approach to student engagement based primarily on pedagogy by offering a typology of learning activities. Prof. Tai will discuss the conceptual framework of learning activities and will present an analysis of student reported preferences for various learning activities across the range of Grades 3 - 12. He will also discuss the potential implications of this work on both formal and informal learning environments.

Biographical Note
Robert H. Tai, Ed.D. (Harvard University), is an associate professor of science education at the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. His current research agenda focuses on the study of student engagement in both formal and informal learning environments. His work has been supported by multiple research grants, including those from National Science Foundation, and has been published in journals such as Science, Science Education, Journal of Research in Science Teaching, and International Journal of Science Education. In 2008, he received the Council of Scientific Society Presidents Award for Educational Research Leadership.