## Session Title:

## Increasing Students Engagement and Diversification of STEM Instructional Teams with Learning Assistants

Interface 2022

Presenters:

Dr. Sujata Krishna, Department of Physics, CLAS

Dr. Christine Davis, Department of Biology, CLAS

Dr. Mansy May, Department of Biomedical Engineering, COE

The Content

* A collaboration across 3 UF STEM LA Programs – Physics, Biology and BME.
* Results from surveys of students regarding STEM Identity, Community and Self-efficacy.
* A set of learning objectives and 4 lesson plans

Advantages

* Collaboration across different UF LA programs allowed us to share best practices and to get on program(BME) off the ground.
* Increased diversity in the instructional team is achieved in the short-term by selecting a diverse set of LAs.
* DEI training of LAs is vital to increased student engagement and inclusion in courses that have LAs working with students on a regular basis.
* Peer mentoring and peer monitoring of group dynamics.

Challenges

* A – Short timescales of interaction( ~1 semester)
* B – Longer timescales needed to see the impacts of trained LAs.
* C – Long-term funding of LA programs

Fixes

* A – Following students over a 2-semester sequence of courses, where possible.
* B – Not yet fixed
* C – Continued collaboration and seeking funding from various sources.

Bonuses

* A – Booklet of ‘Cultivating Equity’ Lesson plans that will be widely shared.