
ADOPT-A-PHYSICIST STUDENT GUIDE

Over the next three weeks our class will be working in groups on a project called **Adopt-A-Physicist**. The purpose of this project is to learn about what people with physics degrees do in their careers.

USING THE FORUM

To get to your forum, go to www.adoptaphysicist.org and login. You will need the following information:

School: Northbridge High School

Pin: your period number four times (ex. Period 4 = 4444)

After you login, you will see the list of physicists that your class has adopted. You can go to a physicist's forum by clicking on his or her name.

Inside your physicist's forum you will see at least one thread created by your physicist, there may be threads started by other students as well. A thread is a collection of posts on the same topic. For each thread you will see a subject line, the name of the person or class that created the original post, the original post, and a link to replies to this post. An example from a past session is shown below.

The screenshot shows two forum posts. The first post is titled "motivation" and was posted on Dec 06 2006 at 3:34PM. The subject line is "motivation" and the author is "Harrison High School". The post content is "what made you start the adopt a physicist program?". The post was edited on December 6, 2006 at 3:35 PM EST. There are three replies: "Re: motivation for Adopt-..." by Kendra (Dec 06 2006 at 4:56PM), "Re: Re: motivation for Ad..." by Harrison High School (Dec 12 2006 at 3:20PM), and "Re: Re: Re: motivation fo..." by Kendra (Dec 12 2006 at 4:54PM). The second post is titled "Hello" and was posted on Dec 06 2006 at 3:34PM. The subject line is "Hello" and the author is "Harrison High School". The post content is "Hello, I am a student from Harrison High School in Michigan. I was wondering about how many years you were in college for a master's degree in physics, and what was your inspiration to go into the field?".

Subject line →


Author →

Original post →

Replies →

You can view the profile of a user by clicking on his or her name within a post.

motivation - Dec 06 2006 3:34PM



what made you start the adopt a physicist program?

RB

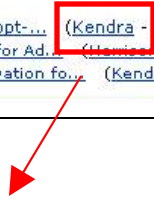
Post edited on December 6, 2006 at 3:35 PM EST.

[Harrison High School](#)
54 Posts

[Reply to this post](#)

Current Replies - [View all](#)

[Re: motivation for Adopt-...](#) (**Kendra** - Dec 06 2006 at 4:56PM)
[Re: Re: motivation for Ad...](#) ([Harrison High School](#) - Dec 12 2006 at 3:20PM)
[Re: Re: Re: motivation fo...](#) ([Kendra](#) - Dec 12 2006 at 4:54PM)




Kendra's Profile

- » [Edit My Profile](#)
- » [Edit My Account Settings](#)
- » [Edit My Career Information](#)
- » [View My Classes](#)

[Adopt this physicist](#) for your Test1 class.

Physicist

Kendra Rand
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740



[Visit My Forum!](#)

Class

Adopt-a-Physicist Fall 2007: [Test1](#)

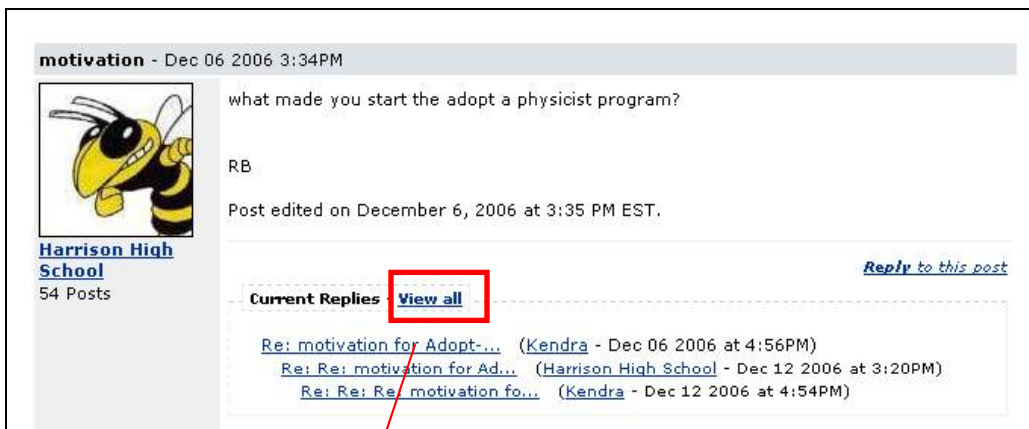
Minority Status

Female


Biography

I moved to the Washington DC area just over a year ago to work for the American Physical Society in their public outreach department. It was quite a change from the

You can view an entire thread by clicking on "View All", as shown below.



motivation - Dec 06 2006 3:34PM

 what made you start the adopt a physicist program?

RB

Post edited on December 6, 2006 at 3:35 PM EST.

[Reply to this post](#)

Current Replies [View all](#)

[Re: motivation for Adopt-...](#) (Kendra - Dec 06 2006 at 4:56PM)
[Re: Re: motivation for Ad...](#) (Harrison High School - Dec 12 2006 at 3:20PM)
[Re: Re: Re: motivation fo...](#) (Kendra - Dec 12 2006 at 4:54PM)

Harrison High School
54 Posts



motivation - Dec 06 2006 3:34PM

 what made you start the adopt a physicist program?

RB

Post edited on December 6, 2006 at 3:35 PM EST.

[Reply to this post](#)

Replies to motivation

Re: motivation for Adopt-a-Physicist - Dec 06 2006 4:56PM


 Hi RB,
Ah, the million dollar question. I actually didn't start Adopt-a-Physicist, though I did start this version of it. The original idea came from a former APS intern and then was further developed by another intern last summer. We tried the program last fall but people had to communicate via email and it was much harder than through a discussion forum like this.

Kendra
36 Posts

The real question is - why did I decide this program was worth investing in enough to redesign the whole program and have the website built, etc. That's an easy one - I think it's VERY important for physics students to interact with people in the field. In school they teach you physics that has been known for hundreds of years, but that's not at all like what you do if you have a degree in physics. People work on cutting edge research, teach, write, go to med school, etc. It's a much more lively field than high school physics.

You can reply to a post within a thread by clicking on the “Reply to this post” link within the post.

motivation - Dec 06 2006 3:34PM



what made you start the adopt a physicist program?

RB

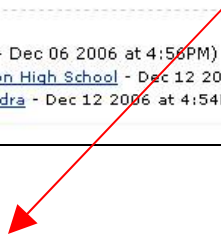
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Reply to post on the *Kendra Rand* thread

Return to the [motivation](#) post

If necessary for your response, you may [include the post](#) you are replying to.

Reply Title:

Reply:

Submit Reply *

* Please keep your submissions within the acceptable [terms of usage](#) policy.

You can post to your physicist using the “Reply to this post” link within another post, or you can create a new thread. **In general, you should start a new thread if you are asking a question on a new topic and use the “Reply to this post” link if you are asking a question that relates to an existing thread.** You can create a new thread using the “Create a new thread” link, located at the top of your physicist’s forum page.

The class pin enables you to read and post to the class forums. In addition, it enables you to read (but not post on) all of the other physicists’ forums as well. You can look through these by clicking on the “Browse Forums” link on your homepage. You can browse the profiles of all of the participating physicists by clicking on “Browse Physicists” on your homepage.

POSTING ETTIQUITE

- Do not ask your physicist more than a few questions at a time because it could be overwhelming. Also, be sure to answer any questions he or she asks you and thank them for their time.
- Before you ask your physicist a question, read through the other posts in the forum and make sure it has not already been asked and answered. If it hasn’t, start a new thread with a descriptive title and then ask your question, or add your question in a related thread.
- Be respectful of your physicist even if you disagree with what he or she says.
- Inappropriate posts will be deleted and may cause your group to be disqualified from the project!

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

In addition to questions pertaining to your physicist’s career and background, you may want to ask your physicist where to look for background information on his or her employer, pictures, movie clips, and anything else that would enhance your understanding of what he or she does. If your physicist wants to send anything via snail mail (pamphlets or brochures), they should be sent to the school and include my name in the address. **Do not give the physicist your personal email or mailing address.**

I will be reading our class forums at least once a week and checking to make sure that your group is corresponding with your physicist on a regular basis, and that the content in your forum is appropriate for the purpose of this project.