

Conversations on creating a different classroom climate

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Abstract: Recent research paints a rather grim picture of the climate in many science, math, and engineering classrooms. Seymour & Hewitt (1997) reported that between 40 and 60 percent of high ability students switch out of SME disciplines. Tinto (1993) stated that "more students leave college than graduate." Both researchers point to the classroom climate as a principal cause.

The presenters in this session will provide a summary of the research, describe (and model) the

strategies they use to create a different classroom climate, and engage the audience in a conversation about creating "friendlier" classroom climates.

Seymour, E., & Hewitt, N.M. 1997. *Talking about leaving: Why undergraduates leave the sciences*. Boulder, CO: Westview.

Tinto, V. 1993. *Leaving college: Rethinking the causes and cures of student attrition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.