

1145-VJ-2374 **Amine Benkiran**, azb165@psu.edu, and **Eric Simring**, **Andrew M Baxter**, **Russ deForest** and **Matthew Willyard*** (willyard@math.psu.edu). *Learning Assistants in the first-year biocalculus sequence at Penn State University*. Preliminary report.

At Penn State, Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate students who support students in science courses, both inside and outside the classroom. Their involvement has become an instrumental part to the instructional practices for the first-year calculus sequence for life-science majors at Penn State University, University Park. We began with 12 LAs in Fall 2017 and have rapidly expanded to 69 applicants for LA positions in Fall 2018. In Fall 2018 we have had 39 Learning Assistants serving in a total of 15 different sections with roughly 600 students total. This talk will outline who Learning Assistants are, the model we have adopted at Penn State University, how classroom practices accommodate LA involvement, and what we have found to be best practices in working as part of an instructional team. (Received September 25, 2018)