Mary E. Pilgrim* (mpilgrim@rams.colostate.edu), 1874 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1874, and Daniel Reinholz and Joel Corbo. Improving STEM Education Through Departmental Action Teams.

To improve undergraduate STEM education, we have been facilitating and studying Departmental Action Teams (DATs). A DAT is a departmentally-based team of faculty, students, and staff working together to address a broad-scale educational issue. Rather than making "quick fixes" to try to address a "problem" in the short term, DATs aim to build structures to create sustained and ongoing improvements. Given that quick fixes have yet to improve education at scale (e.g., resulting in the widespread use of innovative teaching and learning techniques), we argue that new approaches, like DATs, are necessary. DATs are supported by external facilitators who provide DAT participants with expertise in education and institutional change research, logistical support, campus connections, and a functional process for achieving their goals. In this presentation we will share the DAT model, successful pilot DATs, and the expansion of the DAT model to two universities. Further, we will discuss lessons learned with regard to departmental and institutional contexts, as well as our process for developing robust measures of departmental culture around education. (Received July 28, 2017)