

An Introduction to Undergraduate Research Courses for Two-Year College Students as a Recruitment/Retention Strategy

Dick Gaglione

Community College of the South, Nevada

A syllabus for an introductory course in undergraduate research in the chemical sciences is proposed as a recruitment/retention strategy for two-year colleges. The scientific method and its application in selected examples of various types of research designs are included in the course. The use of the personal computer for the collection and analysis of data as well as the library for the reading and writing of scientific reports are featured. Guest lectures and field trips give students knowledge of current research projects as well as the contributions of women and minorities to the present day research community. The course is seen as a first step for students wishing to major in chemical sciences to become involved in a research project even while they are at the associate degree level.