Infusing faculty research into an introductory biology laboratory

Elisabeth Schussler, University of Tennessee, Division of Biology

Course: Organization and Function of the Cell
Second semester majors’ course
>900 students per academic year

Previous lab: cookbook, techniques

In 2011, identified research of four UTK faculty members to be the basis of new guided inquiry laboratories
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Each lab,
Week 1: background and techniques, collect and analyze preliminary data, brainstorm hypothesis and experimental design for another experiment given supplies available

Week 2: collect data, analyze data, compile and present an oral communication

Follow-up: Written lab communication

End of semester: Group presentation on how they would continue experimentation on one of the systems they worked with that semester