Utilizing Undergraduate Research to Enhance Integrative Learning

The Global Conflict and Cooperation learning community established in 2013 at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire (UWEC) involves students co-enrolling in two courses and conducting research to address water issues. The experience demonstrates the value provided by undergraduate research to learning communities and integrative learning. The authors describe the structure and approach of this blended research-learning community model. Assessment findings suggest that the research component supported integrative learning to unanticipated degrees. This research-learning community model exemplifies the synergistic effects of combining two high-impact practices, showing that undergraduate research conducted within learning communities leads to greater effects in both areas.