Case Study into Project Based Learning and Curriculum

TIMOTHY RENFRO, TIKHON BYKOV, WAYNE KEITH, McMurry University — An approach and ongoing process to creating and operating project based learning experiences and classes, as inspired by The National Science Foundation, American Physical Society, American Association of Physics Teachers, and Association of American Colleges and Universities at a small liberal arts college over the past 6 years, in the aspiration to capture and educate “Makers,” “Doers” and “Creatives.” Students want not only to learn theory but also how to apply their work. Their expectations are not limited by experience or practicality. So how do we harness this into a constructive means to develop projects in collaborative assignments, project based learning classes, social club projects, and senior research/capstone? I will discuss our experience and how we have approached this matter in our department.

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