Excellence, Expertise, and Scholarship of Teaching
in Agricultural, Environmental, Natural and Life Sciences

Neil A. Knobloch & Anna L. Ball

University of Illinois

Paper presented at the NACTA Annual Conference, Gainesville, FL.
Excellence, Expertise, and Scholarship of Teaching
in Agricultural, Environmental, Natural and Life Sciences

Neil A. Knobloch & Anna L. Ball
University of Illinois

Abstract

The ways in which colleges and universities measure and recognize effective teachers is complex and controversial. There is disagreement on how to identify, define, develop, and promote effective teaching within our institutions (Cross, 1977; Menges & Austin, 2001; Sherman, Armistead, Fowler, Barksdale, & Reif, 1987). Various terms such as teaching excellence, teaching expertise, and scholarship of teaching have been used to communicate teaching quality (Kreber, 2002). Two questions guided the researchers in preparing this presentation: How are these terms different regarding effective teaching, sound disciplinary knowledge, knowledge of how students learn, teacher reflection, and teacher motivation? Can all professors become excellent, experts, and scholars of teaching?

The purpose of this presentation is to engage professors to reflect on being or becoming excellent teachers, expert teachers, and scholars of teaching in agricultural, environmental, natural, and life sciences. Specifically, participants will: (1) distinguish between excellence in, expertise in, and scholarship in teaching; (2) discuss the issues of validity in identifying excellence, expertise, and scholarship in teaching; and (3) provide examples of how excellent teachers, expert teachers, and scholars of teaching in agriculture, environmental, natural and life sciences: think about teaching and learning, are motivated as teachers, and use teaching practices to be effective.


Contact: Knobloch, N. A., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 139 Bevier Hall, MC-180, 905 S. Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801, Phone: (217) 244-8093, Fax: (217) 244-7877, nknobloc@uiuc.edu, oral