A Recipe for Success: Using BioBeyond to Supplement a Non-Major Biology Course

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In fall 2016, Oakton Community College adopted the use of BioBeyond, as an adaptive textbook replacement in some sections of our non-majors Biology course in response to low student success rates and concerns about textbook affordability. BioBeyond, from Inspark technology built on the Smart Sparrow platform, is an introductory digital textbook program centered on the question of "Is there life in the universe?" Initial results suggest an increased success of 7-9% and an increase in the percentage of "A" grades. Participants will be able to complete a lesson from BioBeyond to learn how the lessons engage and encourage the students to learn the material. Since the implementation of BioBeyond, we have worked with Inspark to develop a primer for anatomy and physiology students. We will also share our success results, discuss how we implemented BioBeyond and the primer, and discuss our future plans for BioBeyond and related tools in non-major biology courses and anatomy and physiology courses.

Keywords: digital textbook, BioBeyond

Mission, Review Process & Disclaimer

The Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) was founded in 1979 to promote information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with teaching biology in a laboratory setting. The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises. For more information about ABLE, please visit http://www.ableweb.org/

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Citing This Article

Perry N. 2019. A recipe for success: using Bio Beyond to supplement a non-major biology course. Article 47 In: McMahon K, editor. Tested studies for laboratory teaching. Volume 40. Proceedings of the 40th Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE). http://www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-40/?art=47

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