Discipline-based education research: The key to student learning

Dr. Lillian McDermott
Department of Physics
The University of Washington
and GWU Welling Professor

Research on learning and teaching that has a strong disciplinary base can help ensure cumulative improvement in science instruction. This approach greatly increases the likelihood that innovations will be effective beyond a particular instructor or institutional setting. The perspective taken is that teaching is a science as well as an art. Research conducted by scientists who are actively engaged in teaching can be the key to setting realistic standards, to helping students meet expectations, and to assessing the extent to which real learning takes place. The discussion is in the context of physics but can be readily extended to other sciences and mathematics.

Sponsored by the Physics Department
and
The Center for Excellence in Learning and Technology

For more information, contact
Cornelius Bennhold, bennhold@gwu.edu