



Becoming Better Teachers: On-line Resources for Faculty

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In the United States, geoscience graduate students are only beginning to receive guidance in becoming good teachers. Thus many geoscience faculty have learned to teach through practice. While there are many success stories from this approach, it is also clear that research in learning and education have important information that can enhance teaching and that faculty can benefit by sharing with one another the strategies that have worked in their teaching. To facilitate this, the Science Education Resource Center is engaged in several projects that create on-line resources for faculty to support their role as teachers. Starting Point <<http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo>> provides information on a wide range of teaching methods with examples of how faculty have used them in teaching entry level students. Teaching Quantitative Skills in the Geoscience <<http://serc.carleton.edu/quantskills>> combines methods developed by math educators to help students understand and apply math concepts with activities that are used by geoscience faculty to teach these concepts to both entry level students and geoscience majors. Integrating Research and Education provides advice and examples on how to integrate research results into effective classroom activities <http://serc.carleton.edu/research_education/>. Using Data in the Classroom <<http://serc.carleton.edu/usingdata/>> provides access to geoscience on-line data, examples of ways that faculty are using data to teach geoscience concepts, and information about the design of these activities. Geoscience faculty in the United States report that the sites are very helpful because they place the information on teaching methods in the context of examples of what others have done. While these sites were developed to meet a need in the United States, they receive substantial use by people around the world. Faculty are invited to contribute additional activities to these sites <<http://serc.carleton.edu/serc/contribute.html>>