

Engaging Students to Learn Soil Science. (S03-juma161927-Oral)

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Abstract:

Colleges and universities across the country are spending millions of dollars on information technology (IT) to improve teaching and learning. The goal of most of these efforts is to get faculty to use IT in their teaching or put their course on line. In most cases, only few faculty are spending equivalent energy on examining the problems being faced by students to learn the subject matter. A variety of resources such as a print and on-line version of textbook, tutorials, a database of interactive questions and answers with explanations, and other resources for an Introductory Soil Science course are available at pedosphere.com. I have integrated selected teaching methods, subject area expertise, and IT in order to engage students to learn the material. A test center for benchmark testing of definitions, concepts and applications at an introductory level is now available. This tool is globally accessible and allows students to set their own learning agenda. A set of distinct tools have also been developed for instructors so that they can promote and monitor learning. Major discoveries in implementing IT in teaching and learning in and out of the classroom will be presented.

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