Supporting Women in STEM fields: The Wi2STEM Club’s Evolving Impact on Student Members at Clayton State University.

The Women Interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Wi2STEM) club at Clayton State University (CSU) was formed four years ago to support female students in STEM fields. The club brings in speakers from STEM fields, funds student travel to conferences, provides job shadowing opportunities, educates members about graduate school and scholarship opportunities, and other activities. Wi2STEM is career oriented and strives to provide a supportive environment for its members and help them to achieve a school/home life balance. This is a particularly important service of the club, as a large proportion of CSU’s students are non-traditional students, many with families and/or jobs outside of school.

The undergraduate presenter will report on a statistical analysis of a survey that was conducted to determine the impact of the club on its members. The influence on students will be assessed through a comparison of Wi2STEM member GPAs with the general CSU STEM population. The study will also assess student satisfaction with the club, and whether members believe that the club has facilitated their continued studies in STEM fields at CSU. Results will be compared against a survey of the general CSU STEM student population and against a study conducted two years ago. (Received September 26, 2012)