

1056-F5-617

**K. Scott Alberts\*** ([salberts@truman.edu](mailto:salberts@truman.edu)), Truman State University, 100 E. Normal Street, Kirksville, MO 63501. *Experiential Learning of Non-parametric Statistics through a campus-client led survey project.*

Because campuses are always interested in opinion, and non-parametric statistics is closely tied to survey research, we offer a second statistics course built around a survey project for a local client. Clients are solicited with interest in a broad topic. A group of students is then assigned to work with each client to design, implement and report the survey and its results. Recent projects have examined campus technology, enrollment and retention, and improving student services. Clients include faculty, administrators, student government, and even the provost.

Classroom work focuses on theory, methods, techniques useful to the project, as well as the practical needs of real-world data. Students learn about many topics directly through the project. Universal concepts are covered early in the semester; supplemental concepts are covered just-in-time when needed by the project.

Students report deeper learning and a willingness to spend more time working on their projects. They are especially pleased that their work is useful and used. Clients report high levels of satisfaction and a willingness to make campus changes recommended by the project reports. Future goals for the course include soliciting nearby off-campus clients, such as local government entities or NGOs. (Received September 16, 2009)