1046-97-789   **Cindy C. Kaus*** (`cindy.kaus@metrostate.edu`), Metropolitan State University, 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106. *Teaching Introductory Statistics with Community Based Group Projects and Assessing with the SENCER-SALG.*

Through support from the NSF sponsored project, Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER), I have developed a general education statistics course which incorporates semester long community based group projects. The projects are used to reinforce content and to help students see the significance of mathematics and statistics in understanding civic issues. Students choose topics based on interest level, collect and analyze data, present their findings to the class in an oral and written presentation and take an action through letter writing to a local newspaper, community group, or elected official. In addition to the projects, connections to civic issues and statistics are explored through lecture examples and analysis of current events.

   In this session, I will discuss the outcomes from teaching this course during the spring and fall semesters of 2007 and the results from the pre and post SENCER Student Assessment of Learning Gains (SENCER-SALG) instrument. The SENCER-SALG assesses students' attitudes towards mathematics and statistics and their confidence in their abilities to understand and do mathematics and statistics. I will also discuss my future plans for developing and implementing pre and post knowledge surveys. (Received September 11, 2008)