

Bridging Science and Society through Service Projects

Science educators think that science literacy is good for nonscientists. But, said Barbara Whitten of Colorado College to the American Association of Physics Teachers in Greensboro (NC) on 1 August 2007, science educators also need to show a sensitivity toward nonscientists by educating them about the relationship between science and society -- science literacy is a two-way street. One way, Whitten said, to do outreach to bridge the gap between science and society is through service projects, and these projects can also show the relevance of science to students as well.

Whitten described service projects which her students have done to bridge the gap between science and society -- replacing devices in homes to enhance conservation or more efficient use of energy. So far, she said, eighteen houses have been serviced in this way.