



ABSTRACTS

COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 8th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER
WOOSTER, OHIO
JUNE 22-24, 2000

Greening Hands: Teaching Research and Professional Skills in Environmental Studies

Aldemaro Romero, Director, Environmental Studies Program (Macalester College) (romero@macalester.edu)
Link: <http://www.macalester.edu/~envirost>

It has been said that Environmental Studies students, particularly from Liberal Arts Colleges, go into the job market with a number of disadvantages, especially lack of practical skills in research, communications, and the way for-profit, not-for-profit, and governmental organizations operate in the environmental realm. At Macalester College we developed a new course aimed to combine case studies analysis, research, communication, and practical skills that would enhance their chances for success in the real world. Among the skills we teach are how to do research and understand technical literature, how to give a press conference on the results of your research, what is the role of expert witnesses in litigation, how to fundraise for your environmental cause, and how to work in teams, always using actual environmental cases. We present the course structure, examples of some of the activities, and the results of student evaluations about that experience.