

Help SENCER demonstrate the validity of the SALG and the SENCER way of teaching by participating in an NSF-sponsored project this fall!



Dear Jean,

We'd love for you to join our project!

Help SENCER broaden its assessment of student learning. Participate in an NSF-sponsored project this fall!

One of SENCER's goals in its current grant from the National Science Foundation is to broaden assessment by measuring Enduring Understandings.

Enduring Understandings are part of a set of academic standards that organize disciplines by their big, central ideas--ideas that should stick with students long after they leave the classroom, ideas that students can readily apply to situations they encounter in the real world.

The [College Board](#) is currently using these big ideas as an organizational structure for their Advanced Placement (AP) high school science courses. Within these big ideas, AP courses align to content-specific Enduring Understandings to support student comprehension of larger principles. Student success at the Enduring Understandings level is increasingly the focus and end goal of AP science courses.

Students who demonstrate that they possess the content knowledge within Enduring Understandings standards are well poised to carry that knowledge with them after their AP exams and into the upper-level science courses they will encounter in college.

What does this mean for the SENCER community?

Since AP courses are widely regarded as equivalent to introductory, college-level courses by most institutions of higher education, if you can demonstrate that students enrolled in intro courses have gained proficiency with content that maps to Enduring Understandings

standards, not only can you show that your course is working and effective, you can also feel confident that students are gaining knowledge that will stay with them well beyond semester's end.

To demonstrate the validity of the SENCER approach to teaching to the NSF and other critics, SENCER will conduct a project this fall semester that combines its well-established Student Assessment of their Learning Gains, or [SALG](#) survey, with AP science questions that have been field tested by the College Board and mapped to chemistry, physics, and biology Enduring Understandings standards. If successful, this project will advance our continuing efforts to validate the SALG and the SENCER way of teaching.

If you will be teaching a course that covers topics in chemistry, physics, or biology this upcoming fall, please consider joining our assessment project.

We will offer a training workshop on implementing pre- and post-course assessments at this year's SENCER Summer Institute. To apply for the workshop, please [fill out this form](#) by June 17. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by July 1. If you will not be able to attend the Summer Institute but are interested in participating in our assessment project, we will be offering the training workshop by webinar later this summer.

We will provide all participants in our assessment project with official letters of thanks, which can be sent to administrators of your choosing, and a title that can be added to your CV.

Your participation in this project is essential in helping us reach our goal.

For more information about the assessment project, training workshop, or webinar, please contact Christine Marie DeCarlo, NCSCE's SENCER Program Assistant, by email at christine.marie.decarlo@ncsce.net, or by phone at [\(202\) 907-6746](tel:(202)907-6746).

**Register for our assessment
workshop!**

Sincerely,
The National Center for Science and Civic
Engagement