

Goldschmidt2018 Abstract

Science In Action! - In The Classroom: Promoting confidence in K-12 science teaching in pre-service teachers and undergraduates.

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Celebrating 11 years of successful science outreach to the Spokane community, Science In Action! supports several science education initiatives, events, and programs meant to promote scientific literacy and enthusiasm of STEM disciplines. Our flagship program Science In Action!-In The Classroom (SIA-ITC) sends over 130 GU students into 40+ K-6 classrooms every year to lead hands-on, inquiry based STEM activities that align with district, state, and federal (NGSS) science standards. Activities vary from understanding biodiversity through analysis of arachnids and bees (Kg-2) to creating hands-on models to investigate various earth processes (6-8).

Here we describe the effect participation in SIA-ITC has on undergraduates. In particular, we asked how participation effects pre-service elementary school teachers, who generally have a limited science background, and science majors who are in the process of deciding on a future career path. Additionally, we present a viable model for a wide-ranging and sustainable science outreach program where representatives of a university, college, or research institution go into local K-12 classrooms to lead hands-on STEM activities. An adaptable infrastructure allows for alignment of lesson to fit district, school, and classroom requirements. This poster will detail ESS lesson plans & activities that focus on bringing geochemistry into K-8 classrooms.

