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Pierre Zundel

Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of Brunswick, Frederiction, Canada

Ted Needham

Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of Brunswick, Frederiction, Canada

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Zundel and Needham: Structured educational design workshop

STRUCTURED EDUCATIONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

Dr. Pierre Zundel¹ and Dr. Ted Needham²

¹Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, E6BIN7, Canada. Fax: 506-453-3538; e-mail: zundel@unb.ca

²Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, E6BIN7, Canada. Fax: 506-453-3538; e-mail: needham@unb.ca

ABSTRACT: Effective educational design occurs when there is congruity between four components of the educational system: (a) the educational outcomes sought, (b) the educational program, (c) the student, and (d) the teacher. This workshop will engage up to 20 participants to help them take a structured approach to designing individual courses and streams of courses to achieve given educational goals for specific groups of students. Participants will be guided through an adaptive management process that leads to progressive improvement of educational designs. The session will start with a brief presentation of the educational design model that underpins this workshop, describing each of the four elements listed above and their relationships. Participants will then work in groups to: (1) Write specific, observable learning outcomes, starting with the general outcome descriptions listed in the new SAF accreditation guidelines; (2) Identify courses in their own institution's programs in which the outcomes identified in (1) could be learned or assessed; (3) Using tools and approaches described by the workshop leaders, develop learning and assessment activities that would fit into the courses identified in (2) to achieve the outcomes identified. The leaders will then make a short presentation and question/answer session on their own experience with this approach and some of the strategies that have proven effective for continuously and systematically improving courses designed in this way. The workshop will end with a facilitated discussion among the group of how to implement this approach in their own courses, what pitfalls they anticipate, etc.