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Richard C. Smardon
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

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Developing a National Framework for External Review of Undergraduate Environmental Studies/Environmental Science Programs

Richard C. Smardon

Since National Association of Environmental Profession’s (NAEP) struggles with academic certification - and academic programs of excellence in the 1980’s – there has been little recent activity. It is the author’s position that we need a model process for self-study and external review that can be utilized by environmental studies programs across the country. This same process could be “blessed” by NAEP – specifically in terms of outcomes and professional skill development objectives. Thus instead of a rigid certification process – we could have a framework which meets that meets NAEP needs as well as academic program external review needs. Recent experiences with a review of a Texas Environmental Studies/Environmental Science Program and a proposed review of a New York State ES program will be discussed as examples for this process.

1 Richard C. Smardon, Faculty of Environmental Studies, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210, phone 315-470-6576, FAX 315-470-6915 email: rsmardon@mailbox.syr.edu