Innovation in the Classroom: Moving toward Equity and Improving Student Skills

For two decades, I created new courses, developed new teaching strategies, and mentored junior faculty and postdocs while teaching a wide range of Biology courses. Then in 2020 the pandemic and stark racial injustices forced us to make drastic changes in how we teach, and to rethink how we address students’ experiences of our coursework. I will describe how the pandemic has been an opportunity for me to improve student experience and growth in my courses: getting rid of high stakes exams where I can, creating student-centered policies and incorporating a stronger focus on skills necessary for a successful career while still enjoying the wonders of the living world.