

Current studies indicate that involving undergraduate students in research opportunities during their freshman year increases retention rates in STEM fields. Students who are engaged in research projects develop a more positive view of the sciences, and increases their scientific curiosity. With these studies in mind, I started the Washington County Biodiversity Project. The Washington County Biodiversity Project has three goals: to engage students in the sciences, to help students develop an interest in biodiversity and ecology, and to give students an opportunity to learn how biologists do field biology.