Improving Quantitative and Statistical Instruction

Session chair & organizer:
Bob Andrews, Virginia Commonwealth University, randrews@vcu.edu

Presenters and Panelists:
Ping Wang, James Madison University, wangpx@jmu.edu
Robin Snyder, Robin Snyder, robin@robinsnyder.com
Joe Van Matre, University of Alabama Birmingham, jgv@uab.edu
Steve Silver, The Citadel, silvers@citadel.edu

Abstract: Panelists address a variety of potential instructional improvements that include: considering the importance of student attitude for student success, ways to help students internalize and take ownership of statistical topics being taught, focusing applications on the student’s discipline with a discussion of teaching to a finance audience, and using internet based technology to assist with instruction. Audience members are encouraged to join in the discussion of these topics.

Session Description:
Ping Wang will address how much student attitude is related to course outcome. He will present data that was obtained for the purpose of determining if there is a relationship between student attitude and course outcome. If student outcome is related to student attitude, then consideration needs to be given to deciding if class instruction should address student attitude as well as academic content.

Robin Snyder will present a series of short problems for concepts in probability and statistics that operationalize real problems so students can internalize the solution process and use it to solve similar problems. To internalize something is to make it part of oneself such that it becomes easy to work with and reason about that something. To operationalize something is to make it real in some form. Internalizing concepts in business probability and statistics can be facilitated by operationalizing the concepts in some real form such that one can relate that real form to other similar problems.

Joe Van Matre will share his experiences and what he learned from teaching a quantitative analysis in finance course for finance majors.

Steve Silver will briefly examine approaches educators and educational institutions at all levels are exploiting or considering to use technology to improve the delivery of instruction to their students. Then he will demonstrate how online technology can be used to create a “Course in a Box” that can be used in a wide variety of educational settings.