

Raising Awareness of Critical Water Issues on the College Campus

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Abstract. Even as water management professionals meet and discuss water issues in Georgia, many actions are hampered by lack of financial and legislative support. Successful community water management flows through education and public awareness of local and global water issues. Three classes at Georgia Gwinnett College engaged in an interdisciplinary and collaborative effort to raise awareness of water issues both in these specific classes and to the campus community at large. Each class required a specific in-depth analysis of some water topic, for example, topics included waterborne diseases, tri-state water wars, and the Three Gorges dam, or students researched and discussed a water management issue with regard to local or global leadership as a major assignment. Students were required to develop an interactive demonstration to present at a campus event to raise water awareness to the greater College campus community. Students engaged other students in activities to raise awareness of the critical issues around water. Activities included discerning bottled water taste from tap water, fishing in garbage strewn oceans, considering water as a potential terrorist target. Through these efforts students gained a greater appreciation and awareness of water issues and the need to conserve and protect water resources. We will present outcomes data from this event and share resources that can be exported to other groups.