

CSIE Students in the Community: Well Water Testing



In November 2015, students from Steve LoDuca's **CSIE 177: Groundwater Studies** course worked with the Washtenaw County Conservation District to screen private well water samples for nitrate and nitrite. Residents from the local area were able to bring a small sample of their water for students to test. This type of project is central to the CSIE experience and helps students use their classroom learning to connect with the community. Great work CSIE students!



In the photos: CSIE 177 students checking the results of a well water test; and CSIE Director Nina Contis (center) and CSIE alum Chris Coulter (far right; see Spotlight below) with the students.

Alumni Spotlight



Chris Coulter

Chris Coulter knows how powerful it is to experience the real-world potential of classroom learning in the CSIE Program. Chris was a student in CSIE 177 in 2010, and now in his professional role, he works with the students from that class when they do water testing for their community outreach project and he finds that experience rewarding.

Chris, who received his B.S. in Earth Systems Science in 2012, works as an MAEAP Technician with the Washtenaw County Conservation District. He assists agricultural producers in the county with reducing pollution risks to surface and groundwater resources, in addition to facilitating well water testing for county residents.

Reflecting on his experience, Chris said that participating in CSIE and doing volunteer work with a conservation technician (who he met through the CSIE experience) inspired him to pursue a career in water quality and natural resource conservation. He added, **“Many concepts involving water quality, water well construction, and water quality pollution risks that I use every day on the job were introduced to me through the CSIE class.”**

Monday Night Chemistry

The CSIE Program is again offering drop-in study sessions for Chem 115, 117, 121, and 123 students on Mondays during the Winter 2016 semester. These Monday Night Chemistry sessions start at 7 p.m. in 241 Science Complex. Instructors and graduate students are always on hand to answer questions. See you there!



During the Fall 2015 semester, nearly a dozen faculty/lecturers were newly trained in CSIE practices through the CSIE Faculty Fellows program. The group developed **great ideas for future CSIE courses and collaborations** — including incorporating Lego modeling into nursing and biology courses, working with a local museum on earth science projects, and re-introducing courses like Coaching Science Olympiad to the CSIE rotation.

Keep an eye out for new CSIE courses for Fall 2016 and beyond!

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Join the CSIE Facebook Group (CSIE@EMU): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37009121061/>

CSIE Program Office Notes

Location: 501A Science Complex

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm (M-F)

CSIE Program/Title III Staff

Director: Nina Contis

Faculty Associate: Jose Vites

Evaluator: Russ Olwell

Program Coordinator: Sandy Becker

Program Assistants: Jace Lisi, Biyi Akinlude

Graduate Assistant: Paul Pineau

What is CSIE?

CSIE is a STEM-related program that connects students with faculty and with community projects/partners through an integrated science curriculum. CSIE also offers:

- ✓ Textbook Loans
- ✓ Career Exploration
- ✓ Advising Services
- ✓ Tutoring and Mentoring