"Why not try a scientific approach to science education?"

Our key goal is to expand and diversify SOEST's undergraduate enrollment. After a broad overview of recent efforts, we will focus on a new NSF-funded project to fundamentally transform undergraduate geoscience instruction in SOEST based on the Science Education Initiative (SEI). The SEI model involves redesigning courses based on learner-centered approaches that have been shown to produce significant learning gains. Educational researchers will guide SOEST faculty through course design and evaluation. Their role is to share a range of proven instructional and assessment strategies, and to train faculty in their use. A key premise is that it is the geoscience faculty who are responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating an educational research experiment of their own choosing. The instructors are the experimenters, not the subjects of an SEI-led experiment.

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