

## **COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING IN AN UNDERGRADUATE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING LAB**

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To function in the modern engineering workplace, it is critical that students develop strong communication and teamwork skills. Toward this end, a service learning partnership was developed between the local elementary school and a junior level engineering instrumentation course at the UW - Platteville. University students visited the elementary classrooms and conducted brainstorming activities centered around the engineering design process. This brainstorming activity was the start of a six-week project wherein teams of engineering students put their skills into practice by developing hand held sensors to compliment the elementary curriculum. This study sought to assess the undergraduate student learning gains centered in developing students' written communication skills, sense of civic responsibility, and teamwork skills. The impact of this service learning project on the student experience will be assessed through a mixed methods study made up of a pre/post student assessment of learning gains survey, and pre/post written reflection prompts.

