Clickers in the Classroom: Involving Students and Informing Teachers

David Smith
Chemistry & Biochemistry

Tuesday, February 21
OR
Wednesday, February 22
3–4:30 p.m.
Room 50 Milton Hall

Remote response devices, commonly known as “clickers,” have significant potential for improving student engagement and faculty awareness of student learning in a wide range of classes. This interactive workshop will begin with an exploration of basic clicker capabilities from both student and faculty perspectives. Prior experience or significant technological prowess is not a prerequisite for effective use of clickers in the classroom! This introduction will be followed by a discussion of “best practice” recommendations related to instructional objectives including

- Providing accountability to students for attendance, class preparation, etc.
- Enhancing the quality and quantity of student-student interactions in the classroom
- Building student confidence through regular “low-stakes” assessments
- Acquisition of real-time formative assessment data

The use of clickers for formative assessment is particularly beneficial to faculty, allowing them to make immediate instructional adjustments in response to assessment data. Finally, evidence for the positive impact of clicker use on student attitudes and learning will be surveyed briefly.

David Smith received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from U.C. Berkeley in 1989 and joined the faculty of NMSU’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1994. He has used remote response devices in teaching large introductory chemistry courses since the spring of 2008 and considers their use to be the single most significant innovation in his teaching in the last decade. He received the NMSU Teaching Academy Innovation Award in 2009 for their use, and continues to explore ways in which “clickers” can be used to enhance the student learning experience.

Registration is required at teaching.nmsu.edu. If you have problems registering online, call 646–2204 for help.