

Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

Dr. Kevin Ahern on Supporting Undergraduate Researchers [31:16]

Research in Action - Episode 64

Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Dr. Kevin Ahern, a Professor of Biochemistry/Biophysics who has taken a very non-traditional path to becoming a professor. A Beaver alum, Ahern received his Ph.D from OSU in 1986 and after post-doctoral work at UCSD, rejoined OSU as a business manager in 1989. Transitioning to the instructional ranks in 1995, Ahern served there until he was promoted from Senior Instructor to Professor in 2014, a rank he currently holds. Along the way, Ahern served as a scientific writer and editor with stints as contributing editor of *Science Magazine*, *BioTechniques*, and *Genetic Engineering News*. His YouTube instructional videos have over 4,000,000 views and his three open educational resource textbooks have saved students almost \$50,000,000.

Segment One [00:00-11:58] - In this segment, Kevin shares about some of the creative writing he does as a scientist.

Segment Two [11:59-19:58] - In this segment, Kevin shares his experience supporting undergraduate researchers.

Segment Three [19:59-31:16] - In this segment, Kevin describes some strategies for effectively mentoring undergraduate researchers.

Bonus Clip #1 [00:00-4:20]: Success Stories of Undergraduate Research

Bonus Clip #2 [00:00-4:34]: Creating Open Educational Resources

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e64/>

Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Provide an example of how YouTube could be utilized for educational delivery
- Explain the purpose of undergraduate research
- Describe the purpose of a mentor
- Cite and define OERs

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What does Dr. Ahern explain initially led him to begin writing *Metabolic Melodies*?
- According to Dr. Ahern, what is the most important thing you can do as a writer?
- What does Dr. Ahern explain helps with his own instruction as a professor?
- What are the various ways Dr. Ahern utilizes YouTube for educational delivery?
- What does Dr. Ahern share have been some of the most creative student responses to his limericks?
- How does Dr. Ahern describe undergraduate research?
- According to Dr. Ahern, what is the best way for a student to improve their educational gains at school?
- In Dr. Ahern’s experience, what might be some outcomes of participating in undergraduate research?
- How does Dr. Ahern describe the role of a mentor?
- What insight does Dr. Ahern share for those looking to navigate Open Educational Resources? (see also, Bonus Clip #2)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e64/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e64/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they Dr. Kevin Ahern if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, June 19). *Dr. Kevin Ahern on Supporting Undergraduate Researchers* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e64/>

Notes

About the Research in Action Podcast

“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

Contact

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