

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

9 February 2011

Dr. P. K. Raju, Editor-in-Chief
Journal of STEM Education
365 Ross Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama, 36849

Dear Dr. Raju:

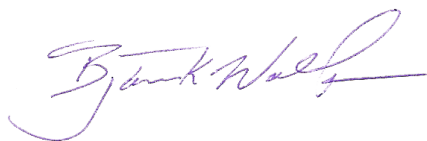
Please accept the enclosed manuscript titled “What makes science relevant?: Student perceptions of multimedia case learning in ecology and health” for exclusive consideration in the *Journal of STEM Education*. This manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere. We have followed the guidelines as indicated on the web page for the *Journal of STEM Education* when preparing the document.

For the past 20 years, many biology programs have sought to transfer from instructor-centered methods of instruction towards more learner-centered pedagogies. The use of case studies, and more recently multimedia case studies, has been a major innovation in STEM classrooms; however, the cases used are frequently based on what instructors think will be relevant to students rather than what students themselves say. This situation is less than ideal, as there is frequently a disconnect between the professional’s and student’s perspective of biology. Most previous research about relevance has focused on asking students what they potentially will find relevant rather than determining relevance after an experience in biology. We believe that this article would appeal to a wide audience of science educators. This manuscript best fits in the section on Learning as it specifically deals with how students perceive instruction.

In submitting this case to the *Journal of STEM Education: Innovations and Research* for widespread distribution in print and electronic media, I (we) certify that it is original work based on real events in a real organization. It has not been published and is not under review elsewhere. Copyright holders have given permission for the use of any material not permitted by the 'Fair Use Doctrine.' The host organization has signed a release authorizing the publication of all information with understandings of confidentiality.

Thank you for considering this manuscript for possible inclusion in the *Journal of STEM Education*. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me (e-mail wolterbj@msu.edu, telephone 517-775-4905) with any questions or concerns. I will serve as the corresponding author for this paper.

Sincerely,



Bjørn H. K. Wolter, PhD
Research Associate



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