Improving Education: Transitioning from Student to Teacher
Kristina Blanke, PhD

Post-doctoral Research Candidate for the Automated Analysis of Constructed Response (AACR) Research Group

Wednesday, January 22, 2014
10:45 – 11:45
3540 Engineering

Abstract
Our own experiences as students lead us to some of the most important advances in effectively teaching science. This presentation describes my progression as a Toxicology student who became a Teaching Assistant (TA) for an undergraduate/graduate Environmental Organic Chemistry course. The opportunity to teach inspired me to design and implement a graduate level TA Training program, and use the knowledge gained through these activities to develop, teach, and assess a summer high school science course. Three reoccurring ideas include the importance of clear communication, designing goal-oriented teaching plans, and the use of critical evaluation to enhance student learning.

Biography
Kristina Blanke completed her Ph.D in Molecular & Environmental Toxicology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in late fall 2013. She graduated with a B.S. in Biochemistry from Carroll College in 2008. After graduation, Kristina became an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) and worked as a Community Educator for the University of Wisconsin-Extension of Waukesha County before starting graduate school. Kristina’s graduate studies included receiving a Delta Certificate in Research, Teaching, and Learning from the Delta Program, the local CIRTL Network project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also enriched her teaching abilities by serving as a Teaching Assistant or Co-Facilitator in undergraduate and graduate courses for five semesters. Kristina is excited to use her science background and teaching experience to improve STEM education.

Post-doc lunch
We would like to invite any current DBER post-docs to join Kristina for lunch after the talk from 12-1 to share your experiences as post-docs at MSU with her. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to Mary Pease (peasem@egr.msu.edu) AND Alica Henney (henney@egr.msu.edu) by Noon Tuesday so we can order food.