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SP - (15704) - MEASURING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' BELIEFS ABOUT BIOPRODUCTS, BIOENERGY, AND RELATED CAREERS

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Short Abstract

This study describes the development, validation, and results of two survey instruments measuring undergraduate students' beliefs about bioproducts/bioenergy and related careers. The Beliefs about Bioproducts/Bioenergy (BABB) and Career Interest in Bioproducts/Bioenergy (CIBB) surveys, the first of their kind, were developed and administered to undergraduate students enrolled in college of natural resources courses at a research intensive university in the southeastern United States. Responses were collected for the BABB (N = 168) and CIBB (N = 203) and were analyzed using exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). ANOVA and t-test analysis showed that students with majors closely related to bioproducts/bioenergy held significantly higher personal and societal beliefs in bioproducts and bioenergy, as well as career interests. Differences were found based on gender and major, but not by race/ethnicity. We recommend the use of these surveys to measure the impacts of coursework, laboratory work, and internships.