

# *Developing a Community-of-Scholars atmosphere in General Chemistry Courses*

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**Chemistry  
Seminar on  
Approaches to  
teach General  
Chemistry**

**Monday  
Oct. 10 at 4  
pm in 303  
Schrenk**

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**Abstract:** General Chemistry is often perceived (maybe even correctly) as a “weed-out” class, a pair of courses literally *designed* to derail student goals and aspirations. Even in the absence of malicious intent, the combination of mathematical exactness and conceptual abstractness makes these courses difficult. While in no way am I advocating for us to shy away from challenging material, we will talk about ways of giving students a greater sense of ownership and inclusion even in a large lecture course. Individually designed research projects, small group activities (both in lab and in lecture) and a cooperative (as opposed to competitive) grading scheme are some ways I’ve been attempting to change the culture of the class.

**About the speaker:** Steve Keller grew up in the great Pacific Northwest and graduated from Pacific Lutheran University (BSc) and the University of California-Berkeley (PhD). Steve has been on the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at MU since 1995 where he currently serves as Associate Professor, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, and since 2015 director of the Missouri Scholars Academy. Steve’s time away from campus is focused on being husband to Amanda and dad to Lindsay (12) and Liam (5), brewing some beer, and watching a bit of soccer (he is the cousin of Kasey Keller, former goalkeeper for the U.S. National Soccer team).