EMMA MALCOMB and KIM BJORGO-THORNE, Dept of Biology and Environmental Science, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV 26201. Evaluation of teaching intervention on student perceptions of environment.

Students are exposed to scientific principles such climate change and sustainability during a typical general education environmental science course. The purpose of this research is to examine the change in student perceptions of climate change, ozone depletion, and sustainability following a pedagogical intervention. There were 20 students in the 2016 study, each of whom took a pre- and post-class survey, completed an interview, and participated in a targeted intervention regarding climate change. Student interviews were scored based on declared confidence. When asked about climate change, students reported that they were 68% confident in their understanding (mode =50%). Student confidence in their understanding of ozone depletion was 62% (mode = 50%). Student confidence in their understanding of sustainability was 66% (mode = 75%). Students were asked how often family and friends influenced their understanding of environmental issues. Interestingly, 50% of respondents indicated that there was no influence of friends/family, and 50% said there was an influence of friends/family on their perceptions. When asked about their influence from television, 55% of students indicated that television or news sources shaped their view on environmental issues. Less than half of the students (48%) claimed to be influenced by social media. A comparison of pre- and post-survey data indicate that student confidence increases following the intervention (p < 0.05). In conclusion, student perceptions of climate change, ozone depletion, and sustainability can be addressed using an intervention, but care must be taken to continually reinforce correct perceptions. WVWC IRB Approval # WVWC 2017-005.