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Institution: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
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Dissertation Title: “A Phenomenological Study: Motivation as Experienced by Engineering Design Competitors at a Selective Engineering University”
Dissertation Citation: A Phenomenological Study: Motivation as Experienced by Engineering Design Competitors at a Selective Engineering University (Doctoral dissertation, Benedictine University, 2014).
Dissertation Advisors: Nancy W. Bentley, Nancee I. Bailey, Joanne L. DeTore, William W. Graham
Electronic access:
http://works.bepress.com/aaron_clevenger/6/
http://www.ben.edu/college-of-education-and-health-services/higher-education/research.cfm
Abstract:
This study focuses on the life experience of motivation for competitors of the International Robosub and Roboboat Competitions from a selective engineering university. A phenomenological study, using in-depth interviews and document/artifact analysis, was conducted. The competitors’ responses were analyzed to answer the research question which follows: while preparing for and participating in International Robosub or Roboboat Competitions, what experiences – actual acts, specific behaviors, or other moments – brought about motivational responses for student contestants? The results of the study are intended to provide educators with a better understanding of how to use engineering competitions in a way that will motivate their students to learn the design process. In addition, their responses provide educators with further insight on student motivation and the effectiveness of learning-centered education such as experiential learning, collaborative learning, and project-based learning.
Author bio:

Dr. Aaron Clevenger serves as Executive Director of Experiential Learning and Undergraduate Research at Embry-Riddle’s Daytona Beach Campus. Dr. Clevenger is an adjunct professor for the colleges of Arts and Science and Business having taught courses in Organizational Behavior, Ethics and Social Responsibility, Social Change, and Professional Skills for Homeland Security.

Aaron graduated with a BA in Interpersonal Communication and a MA in Educational Leadership from the University of Central Florida and an Ed.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change from Benedictine University in Lisle, IL.

Aaron’s areas of research interest include pedagogy, andragogy, motivation theories, and experiential learning including study abroad, internships/co-ops, and service learning experiences.

National and Regional Presentations
Clevenger, A. D. & George, K.W. (2014, December 8). *Implementing a QEP in a distributed university when memories are short and changes are necessary.* Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges 2014 Annual Meeting. Nashville, TN.


George, K. W. & Clevenger, A. D. (2013, December 10). *Implementing a QEP that encompasses all campuses in a varied focused distributed university.* Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.


Selected and Pending Publications


**Honors and Awards**

NSEE - Outstanding Experiential Education Research/Dissertation Award  
Experiential Education Academy (EEA) Graduate  
Pi Lambda Theta Education Honors Society  
Order of Omega Honors Society  
Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honors Society  
Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Key Volunteer Award  
Walt Disney World Partners in Excellence