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21801. *Students Conduct a University Needs Assessment Survey.*

Through a course entitled, "Directed Consulting" at Salisbury State University, teams of students solve real problems for businesses or organizations within the community. This paper will describe a Needs Assessment Survey that was conducted by such a team for the Office of the Provost at the university. This opportunity provided students with new and real experiences beyond those experienced in the classroom. Problems and issues arose when attempting to select samples from the defined sub-populations and in actually collecting the data from these samples. Students also observed how "messy" real data can be, learned how to "clean" data, and as a team, created a database. The use of technology to describe and analyze data is learned in the classroom, but now is applied to a real situation. Report writing is even more important since a final report of findings must be presented to the client for future use. (Received September 13, 2000)