



**Kendall Hunt**  
p u b l i s h i n g   c o m p a n y

**YOUR COURSE – REIMAGINED**

SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry  
Creates A Course That Defies The Odds

# YOUR COURSE – REIMAGINED

## SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Creates A Course That Defies The Odds

About 15 years ago, Dr. Diane Kiernan took over teaching the small Intro to Statistics course at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She had a goal to transform it, giving it an interdisciplinary focus. She wanted this to be a class that helped students truly learn and apply the concepts in any career they chose. However, for this to happen, Dr. Kiernan couldn't use just any Introductory Statistics book, which were too generalized. This required more than what other textbooks offered.

With this in mind, she began using supplementary handouts containing narratives that captivated her students and their interests. Soon, Dr. Kiernan's Stats class became a requirement for all students, increasing her class size from 50 students a semester to 150 to 160 students a semester. The increase made utilizing supplementary material not only more difficult, but also more costly. This was a price she was willing to pay to complete her mission.

*(cont. page 3)*



Dr. Kiernan  
Intro to Statistics  
SUNY College of Environmental Sciences

Dr. Kiernan couldn't use just any Introductory Statistics book, which were too generalized. This required more than what other textbooks offered.

her initial meeting with Kendall Hunt  
was like an *“aligning of the stars”*



“The beauty of creating a customized text with Kendall Hunt is that you’re not only getting students the content that they need for class, but you’re also providing students with a text that they will use cover-to-cover in your course. The icing on the cake is the accompanying website which offers more resources and study tools to the students.”

**Sydney Decker**  
Kendall Hunt Publishing  
Account Manager

With increasing class numbers, her initial meeting with Kendall Hunt was like an “aligning of the stars” for Dr. Kiernan. Though she didn’t know much about Kendall Hunt Publishing, her 15 minute conversation with them changed her perspective on what writing a textbook could mean for her class. At first, the thought of writing her text seemed overwhelming, but she states that from the get-go and throughout the process, she “felt extremely supported by everyone at Kendall Hunt.” Working closely with her editor and publishing specialist, Dr. Kiernan was able to incorporate the different narrative components that other Introductory Statistics texts were missing.

“The beauty of creating a customized text with Kendall Hunt is that you’re not only getting students the content

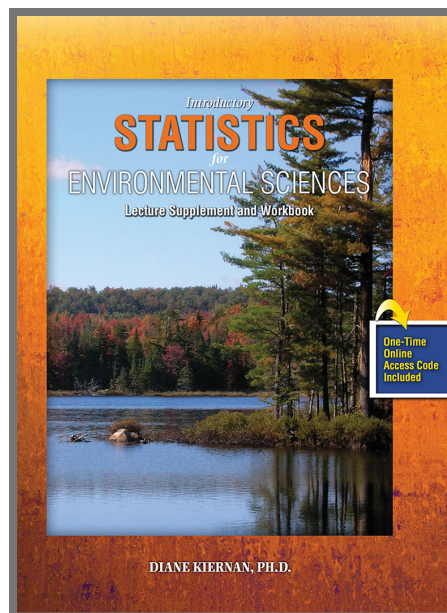
that they need for class, but you’re also providing students with a text that they will use cover-to-cover in your course. The icing on the cake is the accompanying website which offers more resources and study tools to the students,” explains Sydney Decker, Kendall Hunt Publishing Account Manager.

Using a textbook written and designed for her course allows Dr. Kiernan and her teaching assistants to focus less on busywork, freeing her to help students truly grasp the material. Dr. Kiernan explains that the turn-key online course package website assists in helping students understand and retain the material while naturally incorporating academic integrity.

“For example,” says Dr. Kiernan, “when students are

**Introductory Statistics for Environmental  
Sciences: Lecture Supplement and  
Workbook**

By Diane Kiernan PH.D.



completing their homework, they are allowed two attempts at an assignment. However, the second time through, the questions are different than the first attempt, so the students are actually comprehending and solving the problems, rather than treating their homework like a guessing game.”

Because of this, the students learn and retain concepts, leading to some of the highest assessment scores Dr. Kiernan has seen throughout her years of teaching.

Her students likewise enjoy the new course materials and love the fact that the text and website package never exceeds \$100. Additionally, since using her Kendall Hunt publication, Dr. Kiernan has seen an increase in students choosing to minor in Statistics.

“The Introduction to Stats

course and learning package catches them because of its interesting, interdisciplinary set-up,” says Kiernan.

By partnering with Kendall Hunt to create her custom text, Introductory Statistics for Environmental Sciences: Lecture Supplement and Workbook, not only does she benefit, but all students at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry do as well.

“Our goal at Kendall Hunt is to provide you and your students with valuable materials in a cost effective way and to continue serving you throughout the years to be certain the product is exactly as you envisioned,” says Sydney Decker.

To learn about creating your own learning package with Kendall Hunt, visit [he.kendallhunt.com/create](http://he.kendallhunt.com/create)

Her students likewise enjoy the new course materials and love the fact that the text and website package never exceeds \$100.