Portrait of a Rurally Responsive Teacher Education Program

Dr. Jennifer Collins & Dr. Lindsay Hollingsworth
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Dr. Jennifer Seelig & Katie McCabe
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Overview of Presentation

Rethinking Teacher Preparation for Rural Communities

A New Model

Interactive Activity: Portrait of a Rural Teacher

Teacher Preparation Program Strategies
In the literature, this is the typical approach to redesigning teacher preparation programs.

In this model, we look at the final product (rural teacher) as the foundation of the redesign.
Pre-college Student Interest

Matriculation into College/Teacher Preparation Program

Teacher Preparation Program

Recruitment into Rural Districts

Retention in Rural Districts

Retirement
What Nurtures the Tree?
- Climate (Mindset)
- Sunshine (People)
- Soil (Policy/Requirements)

Rural Teachers

Rural School Districts

Teacher Preparation Program

Roots = Pre-college Student Experiences & Interest
Rural Teacher Characteristics from the Past

- Teach with limited resources
- Wear multiple hats
- Department of one
- Utilize community as a lab for out-of-school learning
- Rural teachers as generalists
- Individualize instruction

Barker, 1986; Guenther & Weible, 1983
Portrait Activity - Wisconsin
Teacher Preparation Program Strategies

- Dual enrollment courses with area schools
- Professional development for area schools
- Field placements for current students with strong graduates and peers
- Strong theory, methods course, and field placements with rural focus woven throughout curriculum
- Place-based curriculum for teacher candidates
- Training candidates to use place-based pedagogy
What Nurtures the Tree?
- Climate (Mindset)
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Roots = Pre-college Student Experiences & Interest
Concluding Thoughts

- Situated in place-specific contexts
- Network and continuity of mentorship
- Supporting rural teachers is a continuous process
- Teacher preparation programs driven by the needs of rural schools
- Teacher preparation as rural sustainability

- Universal components vs. the specific rural spaces
- Not all candidates will enter a rural site
- Potential for knowledge stagnation
Questions & Gallery Walk

Thank you!