Shared Classroom: Collaborative University and High School Teaching in Rural Schools

Tuesday 3 August 2021 - Parallel Session 1 - 11.30am to 12.30pm (GMT+1) SINCLAIR - Building Enduring Partnerships

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Throughout the last two academic years, a unique collaboration between the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and the rural and remote Campo School (k-12 enrollment: 56) in extreme south-eastern Colorado has been taking place. In this model, a member of the university faculty travels the 250 miles/355 kilometers to help facilitate instruction in the secondary classroom alongside the regular secondary English teacher. The results emerging from this effort include enhanced student confidence about their academic abilities, renewed and increased engagement with academic content and expanded communications between the high school students and faculty and the university. This presentation examines the benefits, the required steps to overcome institutional barriers, and the specific benefits resulting from this collaborative teaching interaction. Further, this presentation highlights both the need and opportunities for higher education faculty to become directly involved in rural secondary school instruction – particularly in schools with a smaller teacher population.