

Teaching in Rural Places: Broadening Understanding of What it Means to Prepare Teachers for Rural Places

Tuesday 3 August 2021 - Parallel Session 2 - 12.45pm to 1.45pm (GMT+1)

MURRAY - Preparing Teachers for Rural Schools

Devon Brenner (*Mississippi State University, USA*), **Ann Schulte** (*California State University, Chico, USA*), **Amy Azano** (*Virginia Tech, USA*), **Jayne Downey** (*Montana State University, USA*), **Karen Eppley** (*Penn State University, USA*)

An increasing number of teacher preparation programs explicitly address rurality, however, resources for rural-focused teacher education are few. *Teaching in Rural Places: Thriving in Classrooms, Schools, and Communities* is a new rural education textbook based on a critical pedagogy of place that invites new teachers to view rural places from a strengths-based perspective while also making connections between local, regional, national and global contexts to consider issues of power and privilege. The text helps new teachers consider why place matters and provides concrete strategies and multiple vignettes to help teachers consider what it means to live and work in rural communities and schools and teach in rural classrooms. In this session, authors of the book will discuss rural teacher preparation with a focus on issues that have particular relevance for rural teaching but which are not generally a focus of most literature about rural teacher preparation. These include helping new teachers consider what it might mean to have different cultural norms from students and families (to be from here or from away), how evidence-based practice might not be relevant and why an inquiry stance can help new teachers figure out “what works,” considering equity with a focus on rurality, and how an understanding of policy can strengthen teachers' advocacy and inform their pedagogy. This session will build on other work about rural teacher education (e.g., rural field experiences, building professional networks) to broaden understanding about what it means to prepare teachers to work in rural schools.