

## Enduring Research-Practice Partnerships: Garnering Buy-in at Multiple Levels for Longevity

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

**SINCLAIR - Building Enduring Partnerships**

**Phillip Grant, Angela Branyon, Li Cao** (*University of West Georgia, USA*)

In this presentation the authors will share their experience garnering buy-in from school and university officials as a means to establish a long-term research-practice partnership (RPP). In Georgia (USA), a need exists to better serve rural students with STEM offerings. Among the Rural School and Community Trust's top 10 list of highest-priority schools, Georgia ranked number seven. We believe the cause of these lagging results is a funding deficit. Georgia schools spend \$5,681 per-pupil, compared to the national average of \$6,367. To provide more resources to rural schools, our RPP combines the expertise of seasoned educators in rural school districts along with experienced researchers at our university. Using university funding and external grants, our RPP provides emergent technology, lesson plans, and professional development opportunities directly to the schools where rural teachers work. This three-year RPP has lasted because of commitments from both scholars (full, associate, and assistant), educators (beginning, middle-career, and end-of-career), and administrators (superintendents, principals, and the Dean of our College of Education). In this presentation, we will map how our RPP was built structurally to ensure its long-term success.