

Promoting Remote: Impact of Pre-Service Teachers Short-Term Exposure to Rural Schools

Wednesday 4 August 2021 - Parallel Session 3 - 11.30am to 12.30pm (GMT+1)

MURRAY - Preparing Teachers for Rural Schools

Robert Mitchell, Katie Anderson-Pence (*University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, USA*)

In many rural school districts throughout the United States, there remains vacant teaching positions as a result in the very few number of individuals interested in teaching and living in rural communities. In response to these severe teacher shortages in the U.S. state of Colorado, specific initiatives have been developed to promote rural teaching opportunities among pre-service teachers. One of these initiatives centers on coordinating and facilitating one-day trips to select rural schools to introduce the benefits of rural teaching careers to students who are completing their educator preparation program at a local university. Using a pre/post intervention survey, researchers have determined and quantified the impact these one-day visits have on emerging teacher perceptions of potential careers in rural schools. Initial results show that, while many pre-service teachers have initial reservations about multiple components of rural education, these one-day visits lead to increased student interest in careers in rural schools and living in rural communities. This presentation highlights the processes and outcomes related to this study and how these initiatives support the continued development of educator pipelines for rural schools and rural communities.