

Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators Conference

Sept. 22nd, Bowling Green, Ky.

- Presenters- Tammie Sherry, Mike DiCicco, Patti Bills
- Conference strand- "Setting up and maintaining effective and innovative partnerships"

Partnerships to Strengthen Teacher Candidate Programs at Northern Kentucky University

Our presentation will focus on the various ways in which elementary and middle grade programs have created partnerships employing innovative methods that support teacher candidates' content and pedagogical knowledge. Several of the department of teacher education faculty at Northern Kentucky University created and collaborated on new programs to work with a variety of partners. The three partnerships that we will discuss follow;

- We have collaborated on innovative programs with other middle grades teacher education programs in the state (i.e. University of Kentucky and University of Louisville). Teacher candidates from the three universities interacted with one another and participated in common experiences and activities as a way to build a foundation for professional networks. This began the process of developing a shared understanding of effective middle level practice across our middle level teacher preparation programs and promoted reflective thinking in teacher candidates through a team approach model.
- We created a yearlong placement partnership that provided extended opportunities for elementary teacher candidates to work in urban settings. The selected urban elementary school is low-income, high-needs and high performing school in Covington, Ky. The program involves placements at the school for both Professional Semester II and Clinical Experience Semester.
- We moved classes in Professional Semester I from campus into an elementary school four days a week. NKU teacher candidates have a classroom at Florence Elementary and meet 'on site' each day to work on coursework and then report to classrooms each day to assist teachers. Our goal is to provide a more consistent presence in the classroom to support K-5 learners. The embedded experience gives teacher candidates a deeper understanding of the daily demands of teaching.

We will share how the partnerships were created and the process to implement the various programs. We will also provide feedback surveyed from our partners and changes that we have made to improve our educator preparation program to promote effective teaching practices.

Accepted and Presented