



PRINCIPALS, PARENTS, AND PARTNERS, OH MY!

INTEGRATING ROUND ROBIN STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS INTO A SBAE PROGRAM PLANNING COURSE

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INTRO & NEED

- Early career teachers face a significant amount of challenges (Leman & Solomonson, 2025), leading to ongoing battles with retention (Eck & Edwards, 2019).
- Stakeholder communication is perplexing, despite being essential to achieving success in a program (Ramstad & Smalley, 2025).
- In teacher preparation, there is limited curriculum addressing stakeholder engagement.
- First-year teachers in Iowa cited stakeholder engagement as both a barrier and an area of growth.
- Round robins are short, simulated conversations that offer pre-service teachers an opportunity to practice having difficult conversations they may encounter with stakeholders.



METHODOLOGY

- Instructor recruited 3 stakeholders to role play conversations with the pre-service teachers; they joined in-person or via Zoom.
- The 3 scenarios were posted outside each corresponding room.
- Pre-service teachers reviewed the scenario before entering the room.
- Conversations were 7 minutes, with 3 minutes for rotation.
- Stakeholders provided feedback.



RESULTS & IMPLICATIONS

- The 18 pre-service teachers and the 3 stakeholders shared positive feedback from the activity.
- Practicing in class allowed pre-service teachers to build their capacity to have a positive learning experience and have effective conversations.
- Pre-service teachers' success was demonstrated by the qualitative feedback they received, and by the average score of 138 out of a possible 150 points.
- Pre-service teachers feel more confident having difficult conversations with parents, community members, and administrators.



FUTURE PLANS & ADVICE

- We plan to continue this activity in the course moving forward.
- We also plan to integrate this idea in other courses to provide additional real-world experiences.
- We advice recruiting stakeholders a few months in advance, and having a back-up stakeholder available in case of an emergency.
- An effort should be made to recruit stakeholders the pre-service teachers will not know.

"This activity challenged me in a good way. It was good to apply what we've been talking about all throughout our time in college. Now, I feel way more prepared to talk about program issues with stakeholders."



COST & RESOURCES

- 2-3 class sessions
- Coordination of schedule
- Development of scenarios
- Handwritten thank you notes (<\$4)
- Printed materials (scenarios and grading rubrics) (<\$5)
- Internet access and shared laptop stations for virtual stakeholders



REFERENCES



Scan the QR code to review the full abstract.