

Recruiting and Retaining Teachers in Rural Communities

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Webinar

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Central Time

1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Agenda

12:00–12:03 p.m. ET

Welcome and Introductions

Victoria Cirks, Alliance Lead, Rural Research Alliance

Ms. Cirks will provide a brief overview of the Regional Educational Laboratory program and REL Midwest, discuss the goals of the webinar, and introduce the speakers.

12:03–12:13 p.m.

The Research Base

Douglas Gagnon, Ph. D., Research Associate, Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire

Dr. Gagnon will provide an overview of his research on the policy and funding challenges to adequately support rural contexts in their quest to retain and recruit quality teachers. Dr. Gagnon will also discuss the range of strategies that are employed by rural districts to recruit and retain teachers, including grow your own programs, financial incentives, communities of practice, and capacity building.

12:13–12:23 p.m.

The Pros and Cons of “Grow Your Own”

John Ulferts, Ed.D., Superintendent-Principal of Shirland CC School District 134 and Adjunct Professor at Concordia University Wisconsin

Dr. Ulferts will provide an overview of the research regarding grow your own initiatives in rural communities and will provide practical applications from his experience as a superintendent and rural school principal. Dr. Ulferts’ presentation will supplement Dr. Gagnon’s research on strategies commonly used in rural communities and will provide a real-life example of a strategy in action.

12:23–12:33 p.m.

The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative Experience

Erin Joyce, Director, Ohio Appalachian Collaborative at Battelle for Kids

Ms. Joyce will provide an example of innovative hiring criteria being utilized in some districts in Ohio as well as retention strategies that have been employed by rural districts in the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative. Ms. Joyce's presentation will make connections to the research shared by Dr. Gagnon and will complement the examples shared by Dr. Ulferts.

12:33–12:43 p.m.

The On-the-Ground Perspective

Grow Your Own Teacher or Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Coordinator, Shirland CC School District 134 or Ohio Appalachian Collaborative

The on-the-ground representative will discuss the impact and results of the relevant recruitment or retention strategy on his or her work in classrooms and schools.

12:43–12:58 p.m.

Question-and-Answer Session

Victoria Cirks, Alliance Lead, Rural Research Alliance, REL Midwest

Ms. Cirks will facilitate a question-and-answer session with event participants and panelists. Participants will pose questions to the panelists and will then engage in a dynamic discussion.

12:58 p.m.

Concluding Remarks