

LOCAL SCHOOLS, GLOBAL ACTION

SCHOOL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Steve Sider (Wilfrid Laurier University), Bruce Alexander (Waterloo Region District School Board)



OVERVIEW

Our presentation examines how a Faculty of Education has supported global citizenship education within local schools. Specifically, we examine how teacher candidates develop global citizenship dispositions within the context of this university-school partnership.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

We (the two presenters) have worked together for the past two years to develop a school-university partnership which provides opportunities for teacher candidates to develop their awareness of global citizenship and to implement school-based activities for global citizenship. We use a mixed methodology (artifacts, interviews, quantitative measures) to examine how teacher candidates develop global citizenship dispositions through the development and support of global citizenship activities within schools and at the university.

CRITICAL FINDINGS

We suggest a framework of activities and initiatives which move from "global exchanges" (focus on short-term, stand-alone programs) to "global interchanges." These global interchanges focus on integrated and holistic opportunities for global and local perspective-building with long-term critical and reflective practice embedded.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH

We have talked about global citizenship education for 30+ years but have limited evidence in studying the long-term impact of teacher preparation programs and school-university partnerships in developing corresponding dispositions. This research builds on the work done on global citizenship and teacher candidates (Reimer & McLean, 2009) by considering the importance of university-school partnerships and the measurement of these global citizenship dispositions (Morais & Ogden, 2011.)



Contact: Steve Sider ssider@wlu.ca