

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar Series

October 28, 2026 / Noon - 1 p.m.

117 Satterlee Hall

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Extracurriculars aren't extra: Reimagining Rural Teacher Preparation

Abstract: Extracurricular events, such as band concerts, athletic games, and fundraiser meals are staples of life in rural communities, fostering a sense of pride and local identity, while enriching life in rural communities. These traditions are reproduced by teachers' work. Although the very name extracurricular denotes unnecessary work, these activities and events are, in fact, an essential part of the rural school community experience. They are not "extra." Without an examination of rural teachers' extracurricular work, we only have a partial understanding of the entirety of their role, both within the school and in the broader community. By incorporating an extracurricular ethnography assignment, teacher prep programs can better meet the demands of rural schools which await our students.

