

Student-Staff Partnership as Professional Development in HE

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Aims

This poster reflects on work published in a Chapter entitled 'Reflections on establishing a student-staff partnership in Irish university-based teacher education' (2021).

Findings

Staff reflections were recorded throughout the process of project development and an anonymous online survey was completed by 105 students from undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in ITE.

- Partnership highlights students' capacity, raises expectations and requires educators to move away from the 'ideology of immaturity' that positions students as less capable (Grace, 1995).
- Partnership challenges staff to confront uncertainty and vulnerability; risk of an 'erosion of staff expertise' (Kinchin et al., 2020); debunking the myth of teacher infallibility.
- When given space and encouragement to take ownership over learning, students are more motivated to contribute.

Impact

Participating in a student-staff partnership has served as an important reminder of the impact of relationships on teaching and learning.

Partnership also presents various challenges around managing uncertainty, student power dynamics and professional roles. When viewed as opportunities for professional development and learning, the challenges associated with partnership can expose our strengths, weaknesses and values as educators.

To ensure the sustainability of student-staff partnerships in teacher education, the commitment of staff partners must be recognised and rewarded.



Image 1: Members of the student team

Image 2: Product of Partnership Process

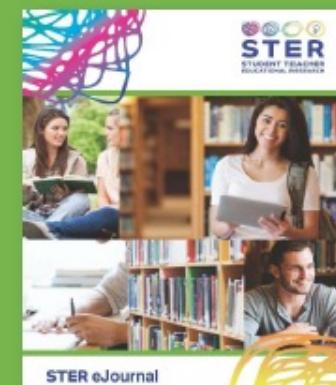


Image 3: Product of the Partnership Process



Image 4: Student Description of Participation

About STER

Student teacher educational research (STER) is a student-staff partnership project aimed at enhancing the teaching & learning of educational research methods. It is a cross-sectoral project including students from early-years, primary and post-primary teacher education. To read more about the project, visit www.ster.ie or follow us on Twitter @STER_Ire and Instagram @ster.research

References

- Brennan, A. (2021). Reflections on establishing a student-staff partnership in Irish university-based teacher education' In Shagrir, L. and Bar-Tal, S. *Exploring Professional Development Opportunities for Teacher Educators: Promoting Faculty-Student Partnerships*. Routledge.
- Grace, G. (1995). *School leadership*. London: Falmer Press.
- Kinchin, I. M., Gravett, K., & Yakovchuk, N. (2020). The future of student-staff partnerships, in K. Gravett, N. Yakovchuk, & I. M. Kinchin (Eds.), *Enhancing student-centred teaching in higher education: The landscape of student-staff research partnerships*. Guilford, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.