

The Experience of Equity in Higher Education Institutions in Rural Areas

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The intent of this abstract is to prepare a presentation on the experience of equity in higher education institutions specifically in rural areas. Current scholarship supports the goal of equity in obtaining a college degree, especially to support marginalized communities' upward mobility. Simultaneously, there are extensive efforts on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) outreach, specifically to increase the representation of people with those degrees, which is also an equity issue. However, much of the scholarship is limited to the context of urban areas while overlooking rural areas. The purpose of this presentation is to share preliminary findings about the experience of equity work in higher education institutions located in rural areas. The project will contrast three institutions – a state university, a Hispanic Serving Institution, and a private institution located on a Native American reservation. The larger project will have interviewed 3 - 5 individuals from each of the three institutions. We anticipate that these rural-based insights on equity work in higher education will serve as inspiration for, and also as an anchor to conversation about, equity work in higher education institutions in rural areas more broadly.”