

# **NC-AAAE Roundtable Sessions**

North Central Region  
American Association for  
Agricultural Education



**Conference Host**  
**South Dakota State University**

**September 27 – 29, 2023**

## **Roundtable Discussion #1: Using reflective practice to measure learner development**

**Hosts: Dusti Ingles and Michael Retallick, Iowa State University**

Reflective practice is an integral part of experiential learning. The benefits of reflective practice for enhancing learning have led to its incorporation in formal education. However, measuring the impact on student growth remains unexamined; reflections are commonly assessed according to whether they meet a set of standardized criteria and are often assessed qualitatively. Evidence of skill building and transformation may be present, but how do we quantifiably know the extent to which these were accomplished for each learner? A discussion on the measurement of learner development over time through reflective practice is pertinent for providing consistent, quality educative experiences.

## **Roundtable Discussion #2: Applications of digital technologies in Extension programs**

**Hosts: Hema Lingireddy and Rama Radhakrishna, Purdue University**

Rising food demand, climate change concerns, and limited resources emphasize the importance of leveraging digital technologies' potential to address these issues (Balasundram et al., 2023). Digital technologies comprise electronic devices, tools, resources and systems that store, generate and process data for user needs. They include mobile applications, drones, robotics, IoT, and data analytics etc. However, it is crucial to improve extension clientele's skills in utilizing various tools and maintaining databases for widespread adoption of these innovations. This roundtable will explore applications of digital technologies in Extension programs and facilitates establishing a framework for utilizing digital technologies in extension programs.

## **Roundtable Discussion #3: AI tools: What is ethical use?**

**Hosts: Colby Gregg and Amy Leman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

In this roundtable, we're hoping that you all can help calm our minds about how students' access to AI tools is NOT going away. How can we grow our own knowledge about these tools, and how can we help teach students how to use them ethically? The use of AI has potential in areas such as brainstorming, literature searches, and formulating broadly applicable materials. At what point is the use of AI no longer a tool and crosses over into plagiarism?

#### **Roundtable #4: Innovative ideas for the NCAAAE Regional Conference**

**Host: Gaea Hock, Kansas State University**

What does the future of the North Central Region AAAE Conference look like as we navigate shifting responsibilities, limited resources, and other obligations? The number of people who can attend regional conferences is decreasing while the need for research dissemination and professional development is still a crucial aspect of our academic lives. How can we meet our professional goals and expectations while being more purposeful with our time? Please join if you want to help bring forward innovative ideas for the leadership team to consider regarding the NC AAAE Regional Conference.

#### **Roundtable #5: Engaging underrepresented minorities in food systems and food security initiatives**

**Hosts: Alejandra Prado-Jaramillo, Rama Radhakrishna and Neil Knobloch, Purdue University**

There is an increasing need to engage underrepresented minority communities in initiatives that address the multifaceted challenges associated with food systems and food security. By engaging these communities in the process, it is aimed to create lasting positive changes that not only improve food access and nutrition but also contribute to greater social and economic equity. In this round table, participants will discuss, "What thematic focus should be given to a food security extension program? What are the challenges? What experiences do you have that would help nonformal educators navigate the challenges?"

#### **Roundtable #6: Panicking about Publishing? Let's talk!**

**Hosts: Max Hagaman and Rebecca Mott, University of Missouri**

As graduate students, we have lots of questions about how and where to publish journal articles on research we have conducted. When is the right time to publish? What journals should we be publishing in? How many publications can we get from a thesis or dissertation? What should the order of the authors be? How do I find a collaborator? What do I do when an article is rejected? We invite current graduate students and faculty who are willing to provide ideas and guidance to our roundtable discussion. We hope to share ideas, connect, and brainstorm with faculty and graduate students from a variety of institutions across the region.