Supportive Residency Instructors: University of South Dakota’s Teacher Residency Program

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Recommended Citation
Schaap, Ben; Schweinle, Amy; and Kindle, Karen J., "Supportive Residency Instructors: University of South Dakota's Teacher Residency Program" (2018). School of Education Research Center. 3.  
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USD’s year-long Teacher Residency Program involves teacher candidates in a full year of teaching experience incorporated into their four-year program. This provides teacher candidates a real-life teaching experience that allows them to connect theory to practice. USD’s residency program is nationally recognized for its innovation and success in preparing teachers.

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**TIMELY AND RELEVANT INSTRUCTION**

Not only do residency instructors serve as a coach and mediator when issues arise, but they also provide timely instruction on such topics as classroom management, educational assessment, among other topics. For example, teacher candidates will receive training on parent-teacher conferences in advance of when they occur during their placement.

94.4% Students felt they received the help they needed after facing significant challenges during residency.

**CONVERSATIONS VISITS**

Nearly 70% of teacher candidates reported their residency instructors had at least five visits to their teaching classroom, and at least five, face-to-face conversations about their student teaching experiences.

**STUDENTS FEEL SUPPORTED**

Teacher candidates responded positively about their residency instructors. On a 5-point Likert scale, students were asked 10 questions regarding the support and feedback provided by residency instructors. Teacher candidates tend to agree that residency instructors support their instructional growth, as well as assist them in overcoming challenging situations in their teaching environment.

**TEACHER CANDIDATE OPINIONS ON SUPPORT FROM RESIDENCY INSTRUCTOR**

Sources: