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# Developing and Sustaining Positive Relationships through Stakeholder Engagement

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**Title:** Developing and Sustaining Positive Relationships through Stakeholder Engagement

**Abstract:**

Developing and sustaining positive working relationships with stakeholders is an increasingly important component of departmental leadership. Participants in this session will learn how a teacher education department successfully engages stakeholders to promote student success, encourage fund raising initiatives and support the university and departmental culture.

**Overview:**

Regardless of academic content, all departments must develop and sustain positive working relationships with their constituents and stakeholders in order to ensure student success, support fund raising initiatives and promote university and departmental culture. Therefore, the purpose of this interactive presentation is to share a Teacher Education Department's experience and related protocol for engaging program stakeholders in a way that has contributed to student achievement and outside support.

**Relevance of session to chairpersons:**

While this session will focus on work within a department of teacher education, the content will be applicable to all chairs from a variety of universities and departments. Speaking from personal experience, the presenters will enable participants to identify key areas within their programs that could be enhanced through stakeholder involvement. In addition, stakeholder input has become an important component for various accreditation processes, which will also be included in this presentation.

**Presentation focus:**

This presentation will have two distinct parts that will focus on (1) the presenters' experiences with stakeholder engagement and (2) allowing participants to identify key areas and initiatives within their own departments that could benefit from stakeholder involvement.

**Recommendations for chairpersons:**

As stated in this session's abstract, the primary recommendations for chairs who attend this session will be to identify and articulate areas within their respective programs that could be created and/or enhanced through stakeholder involvement.

**How the audience will be involved:**

This will be an interactive session in which participants will be engaged with both the presenters and other participants throughout the session. The session will conclude with a specific activity in which the participants work with each other (and the presenters) to develop ways to include stakeholders in their program, with a focus on students, programming and funding.