Community for **Advancing**
Discovery Research in Education

SUPPORT FOR RURAL EDUCATION: A Sampling of Policy and Programs
This is a sampling of programs and efforts to support rural education.

Policy Example: The Rural STEM Education Research Act was introduced to the 117th US Congress on March 24, 2021. It is not yet law as of 4/22/23, and thus has not yet led to the creation of the programs and initiatives it outlines. However, the legislation has received bipartisan support and is currently under consideration by the US Senate. If passed, it would provide research, resources, and support to improve STEM education in rural areas, as well as create a National Rural STEM Education Research Network to develop and disseminate best practices and resources for rural STEM education, provide grants to rural educational agencies and institutions for the purpose of carrying out research into rural STEM education, create a Rural STEM Education Advisory Council to provide advice to the Secretary of Education, and increase access to STEM education for rural students.

Funding Example: The U.S. Department of Education offers several research programs specifically designed to address rural education. The Rural School and Community Trust works to ensure that rural schools have access to quality education, the National Center for Rural Education Research Networks is dedicated to improving educational outcomes in rural areas, and the Rural Education Research and Development Program provides funding for rural education research and development.

Workforce Building Example: Educator preparation programs (EPPs) that are improving teaching practices and support retention in the profession by focusing on challenging negative stereotypes of rural places and recognizing the unique strengths of rural students, place-based pedagogy and field experiences in rural communities, recruiting local residents, offering courses on-site/distance learning, field experiences in rural schools, and scholarships/loan forgiveness programs. Look into programs at these colleges and universities:

- Ball State University
- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Fresno
- California State University, Stanislaus
- Eastern Michigan University
- Idaho State University
- Indiana State University
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Marshall University
- Michigan State University
- Missouri State University
- Montana State University
- New Mexico State University
- Northern Illinois University
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Southern Illinois University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Arkansas
- University of Central Arkansas
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois
- University of Illinois-Chicago
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota-Duluth
- University of Missouri
- University of Montana
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Nebraska-Omaha
- University of New Mexico
- University of North Dakota
- University of Ohio
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Oregon

- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Dakota
- University of Texas-Austin
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- University of Wisconsin-Stout
- University of Wisconsin-Superior
- University of Wyoming
- Washington State University

STEM Education Program Example: EPSCoR states across the country have implemented a variety of programs to support STEM education. Some examples of these programs include:

- The Louisiana STEM Pathways program provides mentoring and support to K-12 students in Louisiana to help them develop their skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- The Maine EPSCoR STEM Education Network provides a range of research-based resources and professional development opportunities for Maine educators.
- The North Dakota STEM Outreach program is designed to engage students in a range of STEM activities, from lab experiments to field trips.
- The Oklahoma STEM Initiative provides resources and support to teachers, students, and communities to help them develop their skills in STEM-related fields.
- The West Virginia STEM Academy offers a variety of summer camps and after-school programs to help students develop the skills necessary to become successful in STEM fields.