



February 2014

## Rural360°

Reaching Researchers, Educators and Communities

The National Center for Research on Rural Education (R<sup>2</sup>Ed) invites you to peruse the newest edition of the Rural360° – an electronic newsletter that aims to provide researchers, educators and community leaders with insights into the dedicated efforts of our personnel and collaborators throughout the United States.

### News & Events



#### R<sup>2</sup>Ed Unveils Research Results at Rural Conferences

Over the past several months, the National Center for Research on Rural Education has shared preliminary findings from its studies at conferences dedicated to advancing rural scholarship and practice.

Researchers from R<sup>2</sup>Ed's Coaching Science Inquiry in Rural Schools project discussed the benefits and challenges of incorporating various technologies while presenting at the second annual **Rural Futures Conference**, held Nov. 3-5 in Lincoln, Neb. The project is examining how professional development and coaching efforts, including those conducted via distance technology, influence teachers' knowledge and implementation of the scientific inquiry approach.

The center also outlined primary takeaways from a qualitative analysis of roundtable discussions that took place at R<sup>2</sup>Ed's **Connect-Inform-Advance**, the 2013 National Conference on Rural Education Research. Presenting at both the Rural Futures Conference and the National Rural Education Association's Convention and Research Symposium in October, R<sup>2</sup>Ed researchers highlighted the discussants' emphasis on establishing multidirectional partnerships among research, practice and policy. The researchers have found that discussants view such partnerships as essential for directing future research agendas, maintaining lines of communication, and guiding the effective dissemination of results toward practical application.

[View Coaching Science Inquiry poster](#)

[Read Connect-Inform-Advance working paper](#)



## New *Connect-Inform-Advance* Resources Available

R<sup>2</sup>Ed has made available new materials and resources from *Connect-Inform-Advance*, the 2013 National Conference on Rural Education Research. The center recently added synopses of the research studies presented at the conference, which supplement the full-length presentation videos previously posted to the conference website. The website now also features an expanded, comprehensive account of the two-day event.

[View presentation synopses](#)

[Read conference overview](#)



### Rural Spotlight



#### Lynne Vernon-Feagans

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Lynne Vernon-Feagans is a William C. Friday Distinguished Professor of Early Childhood, Intervention and Literacy and Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She currently serves as principal investigator of the Family Life Project, a landmark 10-year birth-cohort study that is examining family stress, family health, parent-child interactions, and child outcomes in a representative sample of children and families from impoverished rural communities.

Vernon-Feagans addresses the evolution of rural education research, the challenges of educating children in rural communities, and early findings arising from the Family Life Project in an interview exclusive to the Rural360°.

[Listen to Vernon-Feagans' interview](#)



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