NADD Hot topics Session

How Doctoral Programs are Training New Faculty: Their Practice and Training Experience Goutham Menon and Lynn Videka

Meeting Notes

Approximately 22 deans attended this session.

Lynn Videka presented her slides (attached) on issues in practice and teaching preparation in social work doctoral programs. She presented the approach that Vincent Guilamo-Ramos and doctoral faculty developed for NYU's research-intensive PhD program, including a strong substantive specialization, a required teaching and learning course, and teaching experience at the end (not the beginning) of the program. She also presented the approach of NYU's new DSW program, whose goals are to prepare experienced practitioners to become social work practice teachers and scholars, and to lead practice innovation. A practice teaching internship will be a feature of this program.

During the session discussion several attendees remarked that it is difficult to find faculty interested in teaching practice. Barbara Shank described the strong early success of the College of St. Thomas-St. Catherine DSW program, which is focused on practice teaching, scholarship and leadership. Others discussed their program's approaches and needs. Participants debated whether practice experience should be required for doctoral education in social work and how practice interest can be sustained. Several participants criticized some doctoral programs for offering too little teaching experience and for typically channeling doctoral students to teach research. The participations also discussed the level of interest among doctoral students to teach practice and the de-emphasis of practice in increasingly science-oriented doctoral programs.