

Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium

Using an Online Discussion Board to Help Prospective Teachers Learn to Analyze a Mathematics Lesson

Mathematics Education Candidate

Abstract: Some teacher educators suggest an important goal of teacher education is to prepare prospective teachers (PTs) to be lifelong learners who can analyze and systematically improve their mathematics teaching. However, more research is needed to guide teacher educators in this goal. In this talk, I present the results of an intervention designed to help prospective elementary teachers learn to systematically analyze student thinking and mathematics teaching. During the intervention, PTs watched a taped mathematics lesson, commented in an online discussion board on student learning in the lesson, and then read and responded to their classmates' ideas in the discussion board. Findings suggest that the discussion board intervention helped PTs to look past surface features of the lesson and focus on student mathematical thinking, although gaps remained in their analysis skills. Results of this work can help teacher educators better prepare PTs for the lifelong study and improvement of mathematics teaching.

Monday, November 18 at 2:30 in Roop 103

Refreshments at 2:15