



Virtual Professional Development (PD): An Innovative Approach to Professional Training

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Virtual Professional Development

About Nora Gelperin, M.Ed.



(she/her/hers pronouns)

- Director of Sexuality Education & Training
- Helped create the National Sex Education Standards, National Teacher Preparation Standards & Professional Learning Standards for Sex Education
- TA provider for WISE Initiative since 2012
- Co-Author of Rights, Respect, Responsibility (3Rs) Curriculum

Virtual PD

What is the virtual classroom simulator?

- Elementary, middle and high school class
- Each class has only **five** student avatars
- Students can see, hear and respond to you so the interaction is authentic and **matched exactly to the needs/skill level of that teacher**

Virtual PD



Rights.
Respect.
Responsibility.

Advocates
for Youth
Young. Powerful. Taking Over.

Virtual PD

- Virtual Classroom created by University of Central FL
- Gates Foundation funded five-year research on efficacy of **three 10-minute rotations**
- Found teachers who rehearsed in simulator had a statistically significant increase in their skills compared to in-

Rights.

Respect

Responsibility

* Straub, C., Dieker, L., Hynes, M., And Hughes, C. (2015, June). Using Virtual Rehearsal in TLE TeachLivE Mixed Reality Classroom Simulator to Determine the Effects on the Performance of Science Teachers: A Follow-up Study (Year 2).

Virtual PD

- No actual students harmed during practice
- Can start/stop whenever you want and jump back in for a do-over
- Students can respond at varying levels of intensity depending on teacher's competence and/or local politics
- Instructional coach provides feedback

Virtual PD

We conducted a small study to test efficacy on sex education skills and found similar results (paper pending publication).

We created scenarios for each skill outlined in the PLSSE across grade levels.

We pilot-tested all of these skill scenarios with teachers to ensure they felt realistic and helped them target the exact skill we wanted.

Rights
Respect
Responsibility



What Questions Do You Have?



Virtual PD



Let's Meet the High School Avatars!

Thank You

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