

## **MUSIC TEACHER SOCIALIZATION IN THE PRE-SERVICE YEARS: PARTNERSHIPS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Joanne Rutkowski  
The Pennsylvania State University  
[rvi@psu.edu](mailto:rvi@psu.edu)

Hilree J. Hamilton  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls  
[hilree.hamilton@uwrf.edu](mailto:hilree.hamilton@uwrf.edu)

Alison Reynolds  
Temple University  
[reynolda@temple.edu](mailto:reynolda@temple.edu)

Cynthia Taggart  
Michigan State University  
[taggartc@msu.edu](mailto:taggartc@msu.edu)

Wendy Valerio  
University of South Carolina  
[wvalerio@mozart.sc.edu](mailto:wvalerio@mozart.sc.edu)

Typically, when undergraduates enter Music Education programs, they view the music learning/teaching environment through the lens of their recent high school ensemble experience. However, music teacher certification in many states is “Music, K-12” or “Music Pre-K-12.” Therefore, they must be prepared to teach all children, grades K-12, in any public school, music-learning setting. How can we, as music teacher educators, socialize pre-service music teachers to this broader context of music learning? Further, how can we guide them to shift their focus from music teaching (“me”) to music learning (“students”)?

To address these questions, several music teacher educators have partnered with day care settings and/or preschools. The purpose of this “Best Practice Session” was to share the nature of these partnerships. The following questions provided focus to the session:

1. How was the partnership established?
2. What is the faculty member’s role in the partnership?
3. What opportunities has the partnership provided for pre-service music teachers?
4. What evidence exists that the partnership is assisting with the socialization of pre-service teachers?
5. What evidence exists that the partnership is preparing pre-service teachers in providing appropriate music learning environments for young children?

Each panel member addressed each question within her brief presentation. The panel concluded the formal presentation by offering (a) their synthesis of the partnerships overall, (b) resulting common challenges and benefits, and (c) suggestions for starting such partnerships.