

EQUIPPING TOMORROW'S EDUCATORS WITH AUTHENTIC CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

How Roanoke Technical Education Center prepared future educators for classroom success with ETS High-Leverage Practices Modules.



Overview

Preparing future educators requires more than introducing teaching concepts. It requires giving aspiring teachers opportunities to build the confidence and instructional skills they'll need before they step into a classroom.

At Roanoke Technical Education Center, Eddy Janney, Teachers for Tomorrow Instructor, integrated ETS's High-Leverage Practices (HLP) Modules into the Teachers for Tomorrow curriculum to help students strengthen their understanding of effective teaching before beginning classroom observations and field experiences.

Implemented with all 70 students in the program, the pilot gave future educators practical, research-based strategies they could immediately connect to authentic classroom experiences.



The Challenge

Janney wanted her students to enter school visits with greater confidence and a stronger understanding of effective instructional practices. She was looking for learning that moved beyond passive online training and encouraged students to reflect, engage with realistic classroom scenarios, and begin thinking like educators.



The Solution

Students completed the Positive Classroom Climate module during class, working through approximately one segment each day. Janney paired the online learning with guided notes, reflection questions, and classroom discussions to reinforce key concepts and connect the content to students' upcoming field experiences.

The Impact

The pilot generated overwhelmingly positive feedback from both students and their instructor.

100%

Enjoyed the content

100%

Would use it again

The modules gave my students practical strategies they could immediately connect to their classroom experiences. By the time they entered their school visits, they felt more prepared and more confident because they had already been introduced to what effective teaching looks like.

— **Eddy Janney**

Teachers for Tomorrow Instructor,
Roanoke Technical Education Center

According to Janney, every student enjoyed the content, and every student said they would like to use the training again. Many students commented that they wished they had completed the modules earlier in the year because the learning would have better prepared them for classroom observations and school visits. Students also appreciated the interactive design, including videos, reflection prompts, and knowledge checks that kept them engaged throughout the experience. Janney also sees opportunities to expand the use of the modules beyond the Teachers for Tomorrow program:

“After seeing the impact on my students, I could absolutely see these modules benefiting a much broader audience, including instructional assistants and other educators beginning their careers.”

Looking Ahead

By integrating High-Leverage Practices into its Teachers for Tomorrow program, Roanoke Technical Education Center is helping future educators build practical instructional skills before they enter the classroom.

The pilot demonstrated how interactive, research-based professional learning can strengthen educator preparation, helping aspiring teachers feel more prepared, more confident, and better equipped for success in the classroom.