Today’s Roadmap

1. Introductions & Session Resources
2. AVATAR Lab Tips & Tools
   a. Your Role as a Facilitator
   b. Meet the AVATARs
3. Scenario 1: Scheduling Conflict
4. Scenario 2: Clear the Room
5. Close Out
Introductions

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

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TEXT KATEZIMMER395 TO 37607 ONCE TO JOIN, THEN TEXT YOUR MESSAGE
Mixed-Reality Simulation

Teacher candidates need opportunities to practice their craft in structured, scaffolded, and supervised experiences (Leko, Brownell, Sindelar, & Kiely, 2015).
An Innovative Solution: The AVATAR Lab

- Simulations allow individuals to learn and master new skills in an environment that does not put others (e.g., students) or relationships at risk (Dieker et al., 2014).

- This enables candidates to practice decision-making and receive feedback on decisions through virtual responses and peer observers (Brown, 1999).
TeachLivE™ was developed at the University of Central Florida.

Now this technology is supported by Mursion.

KSU is 1 of 80 universities that uses this technology.

Only 20 universities have a site license.
How It Works:

- Artificial intelligence allows a simulation specialist to control single or multiple avatars: “Human in the Loop paradigm”
- Machine learning used to classify learner’s simulation performance
- Learners can personalize the learning challenge in real time
High Leverage Practices (HLPs)

What is your comfort level with HLPs

A. I am very familiar and regularly use HLPs in my practice

B. I am somewhat familiar with HLPs and have begun to integrate HLPs in my practice

C. I am unfamiliar with HLPs, but look forward to learning more about them
High Leverage Practices (HLPs)

• The HLPs can become the foundation of a cohesive, practice-based teacher education curriculum that incorporates repeated, scaffolded, effective opportunities to special education teacher candidates to practice” (McLeskey et al., 2017, pg. 9).

• HLPs are identified as specific teacher practices that are likely to result in improved student outcomes.
Four Categories of HLPs

- Collaboration
- Assessment
- Social/Emotional Behavior
- Instruction
Benefits of HLPs

- Appropriate for ALL Learners
- Useful across content, subject areas, and grade levels
- Established evidence base
HLP AVATAR Practice
Benefits of AVATAR Practice
Meet the AVATAR Students
Scenario Time: Scheduling Conflict

- It has been brought to your attention that there is a discrepancy between a child’s IEP and the scheduled services at a local middle school.

- In your initial email communication, the school leader expressed that they were meeting the child’s needs given the teacher allotments available.

- You have scheduled a follow up Zoom meeting to further discuss this issue with the school leader.
Scenario Time: Scheduling Conflict

- **Scenario Objectives**
  - Clearly identify the reason why the services do not match the IEP.
  - Problem-solve with the school leader given the current allotments to identify if additional resources are needed or if current resources need to be reallocated.

- **Your Task**
  - 5-10 minutes to plan for your conversation with the school leader. Make a mock agenda, list of talking points, and questions you want to ask to hit the objectives.
Scenario Debrief

• What went well?

• What is an area to improve upon?

• What was your overall take-away as an observer?

• What ideas does this give you for your role as a special education director?
Scenario Time: Clear the Room

- A child with EBD is taught primarily in the general education classroom. Since the start of the year, the teacher has had to clear the entire room of students as a result of the child’s behavior numerous times.

- Teachers, school leaders, and parents have expressed frustration with the situation and are increasingly becoming more vocal about the loss of learning time for the class.

- Each time the room is cleared, there is significant damage to classroom materials, furniture, and expensive technology.
Scenario Time: Clear the Room

• Scenario Objectives
  • Clearly ask questions to get to the root of the situation, and find an agreed upon next step.

• Support the principal in messaging for frustrated stakeholders.

• Your Task
  • 5-10 minutes to plan for your conversation with the school leader. Make a mock agenda, list of talking points, and questions you want to ask to hit the objectives.
Scenario Time: Clear the Room Version 2
Scenario Time: Clear the Room Version 3

• New Audience
  • You will meet with the classroom teacher to have the conversation directly.
Closing Considerations

• Fishbowl Effect

• Scaffolding and Differentiation

• Planned vs. Unexpected

• Repeated Practice
Thoughts, Ideas, and Questions?
What additional scenarios would be helpful to practice in your role as a special education director?

What additional scenarios would be helpful to practice?

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“EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE.”

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