

The purpose of this employer focus group is to gather feedback regarding your satisfaction with the Northern Arizona University (NAU) advanced professional education program graduates you have hired. An advanced professional education program is a program at the post-baccalaureate or graduate level leading to licensure, or endorsement for in-service PK-12 teachers, and individuals interested in school administration positions, or other certificated school professionals such as principals and superintendents.

Questions for the Focus Group	
<b>Questions for RA 2.1 Partnerships for Clinical Preparation</b>	
1) Are you aware of the NAU Accelerated Master's Degree program in Educational Leadership that is taught in the GPS Community Education Building?	Probes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your understanding of the program?</li> <li>• What was GPS's role in co-constructing this program? ****</li> <li>• In terms of our partnership, what is going well? *</li> <li>• Has GPS had certified staff participate in the program?</li> <li>• Would you or have you hired any of the graduates from this program?</li> <li>• Can you describe their level of preparation for a leadership role as a result of graduating from the NAU MEd? ***</li> </ul>
2) What recommendations do you have for continuous growth and improvement of the program for the most well-prepared educational leaders? **	
3) Are there ways that our partnership is mutually beneficial? If so, can you describe these ways? ****	
<b>Questions for RA 2.2 Clinical Experiences</b>	
4) What opportunities might we cocreate for interns in your settings to assist you with data collection, analysis, and interpretation, which demonstrate your student learning/growth? *** AND ****	
5) At the completion of our students' internships, are they prepared to handle the rigors of their first principalships? ***	
6) What are our programs strengths *and what are recognizable areas for growth/improvement? **	
<b>Questions for RA. 4.1 Satisfaction of Employers</b>	
7) If you have employed our graduates in your district, please describe their performance.	Probes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways did their preparation, in conjunction with the partnership, specifically prepare them for the job they currently hold in your district? ***</li> <li>• Please describe the <i>skills</i> of NAU <b>advanced professional education program</b> graduates in terms of their career preparation or development. ***</li> <li>• Do NAU graduates exhibit the dispositional characteristics you are looking for in your leaders? ***</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would you say the graduates are well-prepared for a leadership role within the district? How? *</li> </ul>
<b>Questions for RA 4.2 Satisfaction of Completers</b>	
8) <i>If you graduated from one of the programs in EDL, please describe your experience.</i>	Probes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Did you feel prepared to meet the challenges of your work? ***</i></li> <li>• <i>In what areas can NAU- EDL graduates improve their overall knowledge base? ***</i></li> <li>• <i>Can you offer recommendations for continuous growth and improvement to best prepare educational leaders? **</i></li> </ul>
<b>Questions for RA5.3 Stakeholder Involvement</b>	
9) <i>Please identify and explain ways we have co-constructed this partnership design. ****</i>	
10) <i>Is flexibility in the program delivery model an important partnership factor?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Please describe ways that the program is and can be more flexible? **</i></li> </ul>
<b>Final Thoughts</b>	
Based on your interactions with graduates as a <i>school principal or assistant principal</i> , please provide any additional comments about the strengths of NAU's <b>advanced professional education programs.</b> *	
Based on your interactions with graduates as a <i>school principal or assistant principal</i> , please provide any additional suggestions for improvements or additions to NAU's <b>advanced professional education programs.</b> **	
Based on your interactions with graduates as a <i>superintendent or assistant superintendent</i> , please provide any additional comments about the strengths of NAU's <b>advanced professional education programs.</b> *	
Based on your interactions with graduates as a <i>superintendent or assistant superintendent</i> , please provide any additional suggestions for improvements or additions to NAU's <b>advanced professional education programs.</b> **	

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\*Questions about strengths

\*\*\*Questions about co-construction/mutually beneficial

\*\* Questions about improvements

\*\*\*Questions about skills, knowledge, or dispositions