

Advisory Boards for Instructional Leader Programs

The Instructional Leader Preparation Program meets with advisory committee on a regular basis. In November 2021 a Curriculum Design Team was formed with members from four LEAs and department faculty. This Team surveyed principals about how preparation needed to be adjusted based on their experiences during the pandemic. This Team met fall 2021 and spring 2022. As a result of their work there were changes made in the program. Trauma Informed Strategies were added to ELPA 5200-6200 using materials from the Ballard ETSU Strong Brain Institute. One of the textbooks in the program was introduced earlier in the coursework (ELPA 5300-6300) and finished in the original course (ELPA 5500-6500). An assignment related to School Improvement Planning is introduced in the first course and expanded on in each of the six courses. The cohort who finished in December was the second cohort to have experienced the changes in curriculum proposed in 2022. The School Improvement Planning that crosses all six semesters proved valuable according to both students and their mentors.

LEAs have input into candidate selection by providing letters of recommendation from the candidate's principal, Director of Schools or designee. When possible, LEAs participate in screening interviews of candidates. Adjunct faculty members work in partnering districts.

The Advisory Council met in April. Feedback was very positive. Specific strengths listed were the comprehensive nature of the internship and the rigor of the program. One member of the Advisory Council noted, "ETSU graduates are our strongest applicants and leaders. We prefer ETSU graduates."

The program coordinator had individual meetings with every school director in our region. There were three meetings conducted by zoom and the remaining 14 were face-to-face in the school district. Directors gave feedback and guidance. They indicated a need for more preparation and support at the secondary level. A cohort is in the planning stages to meet that need.