

What Do Part-Time Geographically Dispersed Faculty Members Need for their Professional Development?

2014-2015

The NAU Context

Flagstaff Mountain Campus

20,134 students
973 FT faculty
233 PT faculty

Extended Campuses

2,613 students in-person
4,439 students online
41 FT faculty
378 PT faculty

Yuma Branch Campus

526 students
35 FT faculty
13 PT faculty



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Themes that will inform a larger needs assessment of these faculty members:



Awareness of professional development resources



Sense of community (or lack of)



Barriers to participation in professional development



Professional development needs



Preference for format of delivery for professional development activities



OR



- Institutions of higher education employ an increasing number of part-time, temporary faculty. However, little is known about their professional development needs.

- These faculty members often have high level skills in their disciplinary area, but may lack a broad understanding of institutional workings or in providing high-quality instruction to adult learners.

- Student success and achievement can be promoted through professional development that equips faculty members with tools for providing effective instruction and a strong focus on student learning.

- The information from this collaborative project between the Faculty Professional Development Program and Extended Campuses will inform the design of a larger survey to more accurately address the professional development needs of faculty distributed across and outside the state.

Goal: To gather needs, themes and concerns related to professional development.

Method: Purposive Sample of all part-time and full-time faculty members in geographically dispersed locations. (Recruitment email sent to 545 faculty in Extended Campuses)

Results: 25 individual interviews (13 PT, 12 FT). Interviewees were distributed throughout the state and representative of the overall distribution of FT and PT faculty members. (Northeastern and Southeastern Arizona were underrepresented in the sample).