**Introduction**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Dissertation in Practice (DiP) Collaborative Handbook is to provide comprehensive guidance and support for EdD students embarking on the unique journey of collaborative practitioner research. This handbook serves as a roadmap, offering clear direction on navigating the complexities of team-based inquiry while adhering to rigorous academic standards. By outlining the structure, expectations, and best practices of the collaborative DiP process, Lindenwood University aims to empower students to conduct meaningful research that bridges the gap between theory and practice in the education profession.

Central to this handbook's mission is the cultivation of collaboration skills, which are essential not only for the successful completion of the dissertation but also for future leadership roles in education and other professional settings. The handbook details strategies for team formation, collective problem identification, shared research methodologies, and co-authorship of findings. The content also addresses the challenges and opportunities inherent in collaborative work, providing tools and techniques to foster productive teamwork, resolve conflicts, and leverage diverse perspectives to enhance the quality of the research.

Furthermore, the handbook is designed to be a comprehensive resource to support students through each phase of the DiP journey, from conceptualization to interactive dialogue session and publication. It offers guidance on critical aspects such as identifying relevant problems of practice, designing improvement science methodologies, navigating ethical considerations, and implementing research findings. By providing this all-encompassing support, the handbook aims to not only facilitate the successful completion of the collaborative dissertation but also to prepare students for leadership as scholar-practitioners capable of driving meaningful change in the student’s professional contexts.