Optimizing DNP and PhD Collaboration for Student Success

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Methods

- Mixed methods study
- Public University System - Midwest
  - 4 Universities offer DNP and/or PhD degrees
    - 2 offer both DNP and PhD degrees
    - 2 offer only DNP degree
- 116 Participants met inclusion criteria
  - PhD-prepared faculty/staff/administrators (N=68)
    - (n=31 qualitative; n=6 qualitative)
  - DNP prepared faculty/staff/administrators (N=48)
    - (n=21 quantitative; n=2 qualitative)
Quantitative Analysis

- 52 participants completed the quantitative survey
  - 32 = tenure/tenure track
  - 16 = not on tenure/tenure track
  - 4 = did not identify

![Graphs showing age, sex, race, and university/degree distribution](image)

- Age distribution:
  - 30-39: 3
  - 40-49: 12
  - 50-59: 14
  - 60-69: 20

- Sex distribution:
  - Female (n=43)
  - Male (n=5)
  - Unknown (n=4)

- Race distribution:
  - White (n=42)
  - Black (n=4)
  - Asian (n=1)
  - Hispanic (n=1)
  - Unknown (n=4)

- University/Degree distribution:
  - #1: DNP = 5, PhD = 5
  - #2: DNP = 6, PhD = 6
  - #3: DNP = 7, PhD = 10
  - #4: DNP = 3, PhD = 6
  - Unknown = 1
Quantitative Analysis (continued)

Significant Differences Between Universities were noted:

- Credit Load
- Time Devoted to Service
- Attitudes towards DNPs being Eligible for Tenure
- Attitudes that more Collaboration between PhD & DNP faculty is better for research success

Almost a Significant Difference between Universities related to: Percent of Time Spent on Research
Significant Differences noted between DNP and PhD views:

- PhDs reported a significantly higher percent of time
  - Devoted to Faculty & Research Activities
- DNPs reported a significantly higher percent of time
  - Devoted to Staff Activities
- DNPs reported Significantly Stronger Positive Feelings towards:
  - DNP faculty being eligible for tenure track
  - Equal compensation for DNP and PhD faculty
  - Clinical practice being acknowledged as scholarship
  - Increased collaboration between DNPs and PhDs is better for student learning & research success
Qualitative Overarching Theme: Bridging the Divide

Subthemes:
- Multi-Level Confusion
- Lack of Collaboration
- Too Many Barriers
- Acknowledging Different But Complimentary Skill Sets
- Shoving a Square Peg into a Round Hole
Conclusions & Future Implications

Bridging the Divide