

**Principal Partner Meeting County Schools**  
**February 6, 2024**  
**11:30-2:00 pm**

Attending: Dr. Matt Green, Interim Dean of COEHS; Dr. Jean Ann Helm-Allen, Interim Associate Dean of COEHS; Dr. Lorie Johnson, Director of Continuous Improvement & Accreditation of COEHS; Mrs. Christy Waters, Director of Clinical Experiences, COEHS; Dr. Rebecca Hopkins, Assistant Professor of Collaborative Education and Program Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Clayton, Professor of Elementary Education and Program Coordinator, Dr. Joy Brown, Professor of Secondary Education and Program Coordinator, Dr. Chris James, Professor of Instructional Leadership and Program Coordinator, Dr. Terri Garrison, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood and Program Coordinator, and Dr. Deanna Holliman, Director, UNA Regional Inservice Center.

Principals: Nathan Fuller, New Bethel Elementary; Megean Berryman, Belgreen Elementary/High School; Tyler Berryman, Tharptown High School; Amanda Mathis, Lauderdale County High School; Ryan Robertson, Lauderdale County Elementary; Norman Lovelady, Lexington High School; Amanda Young, Wilson High School; Ashley Delano, Wilson Elementary School; Sabrena Malone, Rogers High School; Sheri Matthews, Rogers Elementary School; Adam Moody, Brooks Elementary; Auburn Wilson, Brooks Elementary; and Brittany Morgan, Hatton Elementary.

Minutes:

- The meeting opened with Dr. Green expressing his appreciation of the principal partnership and support of our program over the years. “As part of our ongoing continuous improvement efforts, we want to collaborate with our schools to evaluate our partnerships and practices and gain valuable feedback to improve our programs.”
- Dr. Helm-Allen informed the group about several important updates in the College of Education and Human Science including the new pinning ceremony.
- Mrs. Christy Waters continued the conversation discussing the mutually beneficial partnership between UNA and local schools and providing general information about clinical/field experiences and interns.
- Ms. Waters asked, “When you hire UNA candidates what has your experience/feedback on our students?”
  - AM stated that our students do a great job and he was impressed that even during the teacher shortage UNA has kept their standards high. He also mentioned new hires were prepared and professional – “you can tell they graduated from UNA.”

- SM noticed that young teachers don't seem to get involved as much as they should. She would like to see more volunteering in sports, arts, sponsoring after school clubs – they should want to be a part of the community. Ms. Waters responded about the importance of new teachers getting involved and she will be sure to have this discussion with students. Another principal also spoke up about seeing this trend of young teachers treating teaching as just a job. “It's not a job it is so much more than that.”
  - AM mentioned she noticed that interns paired with the right mentor could understand the expectations of the classroom better. She also stated that interns that substitute teach have the opportunity to be responsible for entire classroom for the whole day. She thought this was a good indicator of which students were ready and who needs more work. Ms. Waters did mention students need sub licenses in order to receive payment or need a long-term sub agreement after completing edTPA.
  - Another principal talked about interns being a value as an “extra set of hands” in the classroom as well as benefitting from new cutting-edge techniques they bring.
- Ms. Waters inquired, “What are some of the strengths and weakness’of your interns?”
    - One principal offered the struggle interns face when they have to plan and teach for multiple weeks in a row. She also mentioned that edTPA can overwhelm the students during their internship.
- The teacher shortage was addressed and Dr. Joy Brown discussed our Alt-A program and asked for feedback from the principals.
    - One principal suggested that Alt-A students could feel more included by preparing e-lessons to raise confidence and felt they in particular these students were probably more tech savvy would be more prepared to teach online if necessary.
    - Another principal asked how we are recruiting for the Alt-A program. He felt most people don't know this is an option. How could we make it more known as he in particular will be losing 10 teachers next year due to retirement and this program could help fill those slots.

- The meeting concluded with Dr. Johnson expressing her gratitude and guiding the principals through the Lawshe validation of two new EPP-created instruments. She described how these were co-constructed with partners.