

Abstract

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The NIET-TTU Leadership Instruction for Teachers (LIFT) Program will reach almost 7,000 teachers and leaders in 11 school districts, as well as 40 principal fellows at Texas Tech University (TTU) through a partnership between a non-profit organization and a large university – increasing the number of effective principals in high-need schools across Texas, Louisiana and Indiana. The *LIFT Program* is driven by an evidence-based, comprehensive model for leadership, principal preparation and school effectiveness.

The proposed *LIFT Program* enhances the traditional TAP and NIET Best Practices Center models by embedding these strategies into Texas Tech University's principal preparation program. One broad goal of the program is to further refine a previously piloted, principal training with explicit competency-based feedback and shaping using both face-to-face presence and video capture in order to train principals to lead schools serving high-need students. Another goal is to work with partner districts to further articulate and faithfully implement the strategy of selectivity of admissions into the *LIFT Program* for the purpose of increasing the probability of truly exceptional leaders for schools serving high-need students. The *LIFT Program* will also prove to be a model easily expanded through technology to TAP schools or schools implementing similar human capital reform systems across the nation. Now, with the backing of the SEED grant program, NIET and TTU will extend an increasingly unique national non-profit + university partnership model to implement the *LIFT Program* that promises to become an easily transportable, highly effective prototype for use across the entire country.