Invite to Participate in Research
Special Education Director Perspectives on School Psychologist Shortage and Roles

We are conducting focus groups on special education director/leadership perspectives regarding the challenges of recruiting school psychologists and their ideas for addressing the shortage. We are also interested in how the role of the school psychologist is possibly impacted by the shortage, and what special education educators envision for the role of school psychologists in their districts.

The primary objective of this qualitative research is to better understand what special education directors think about the current shortage of school psychologists and the vision of school psychology outlined in the NASP Practice Model. We are seeking to learn how the shortages of school psychologists is being handled in local districts, how the role of the school psychologists has been impacted, and what creative ways districts are employing to attend to the lack of school psychological services that are readily available.

This study is intended for persons over the age of 18. Participation in this study is completely voluntary, your participation in this study is confidential not anonymous, since the Principal Investigator will know your identity. Although I will protect your confidentiality and will direct the other members of the focus group to maintain the confidentiality of the members of the group, I also cannot guarantee they will do so. If you feel uncomfortable being part of any aspect of the discussions during the focus group you are free to not participate without offering a reason.

Washington State law provides that private conversations may not be recorded, intercepted, or divulged without permission of the individual(s) involved. If you are not comfortable with your responses being audio recorded you may choose to participate in the non-audio recorded focus group or refrain from participating in the study.

Questions in the focus groups will be open-ended asking for descriptions of their experiences as well as detailed examples of what has happened when there has been a shortage in their district.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact me directly by phone at (509) 359-4736 or by email at jchaffin@ewu.edu. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a participant in this study or any complaints you wish to make, please contact Ruth Galm, Human Protections Administrator, 509-359-7971 or rgalm@ewu.edu.