Why? The demands on the role of the research administrator require a higher caliber of skills and knowledge to keep up with the rising global expectations in the research administration profession. New and junior research staff are faced with new and competitive proposal demands. In order for ASU to keep a competitive edge in the world of research administration, we must equip our research administration community with the essential tools and resources to meet the demands and requirements that lurk ahead.

Research Questions—Guiding the Research:

• RQ1: How and to what extent does participation in an educational research and training resource impact research administrators’ experience, knowledge-base and confidence?

• RQ2: What are the advantages and disadvantages of orienting a new and improved research administration training resource within the educa-

Context & Participants:

- The Polytechnic School of Arizona State University is one of the six Fulton Schools of Engineering (FSE). Over 50% of the faculty that are housed at the Polytechnic School specialize highly in research (40 of 70 faculty members). The research staff at the Polytechnic School consist of a 4-member core team to support the research faculty efforts.

- Participants/Population — This action research intervention will go through three phases to get to the point of implementation; online; e-learning experience; Participants—research administrators primarily within the six Fulton Schools of Engineering and other ASU departments:

  - Phase (1) - ten senior research administrators (5 from FSE and 5 from other ASU departments) — pilot test to evaluate the research portal and complete a questionnaire to keep track of their experience, perceptions, and suggestions.

  - Phase (2) - adjustments and modifications to components within the portal in preparation of the launch.

  - Phase (3) - ten junior research administrators (5 from FSE and 5 from other ASU departments) maneuver through, participate in activities within the portal, and complete a survey to track their experience, confidence level, and perceptions.

Theoretical Frameworks:

- Communities of Practice &
- Experiential Learning Theory

Research administration means the management/administration of the research (cycle) as demonstrated below:

INNOVATION: