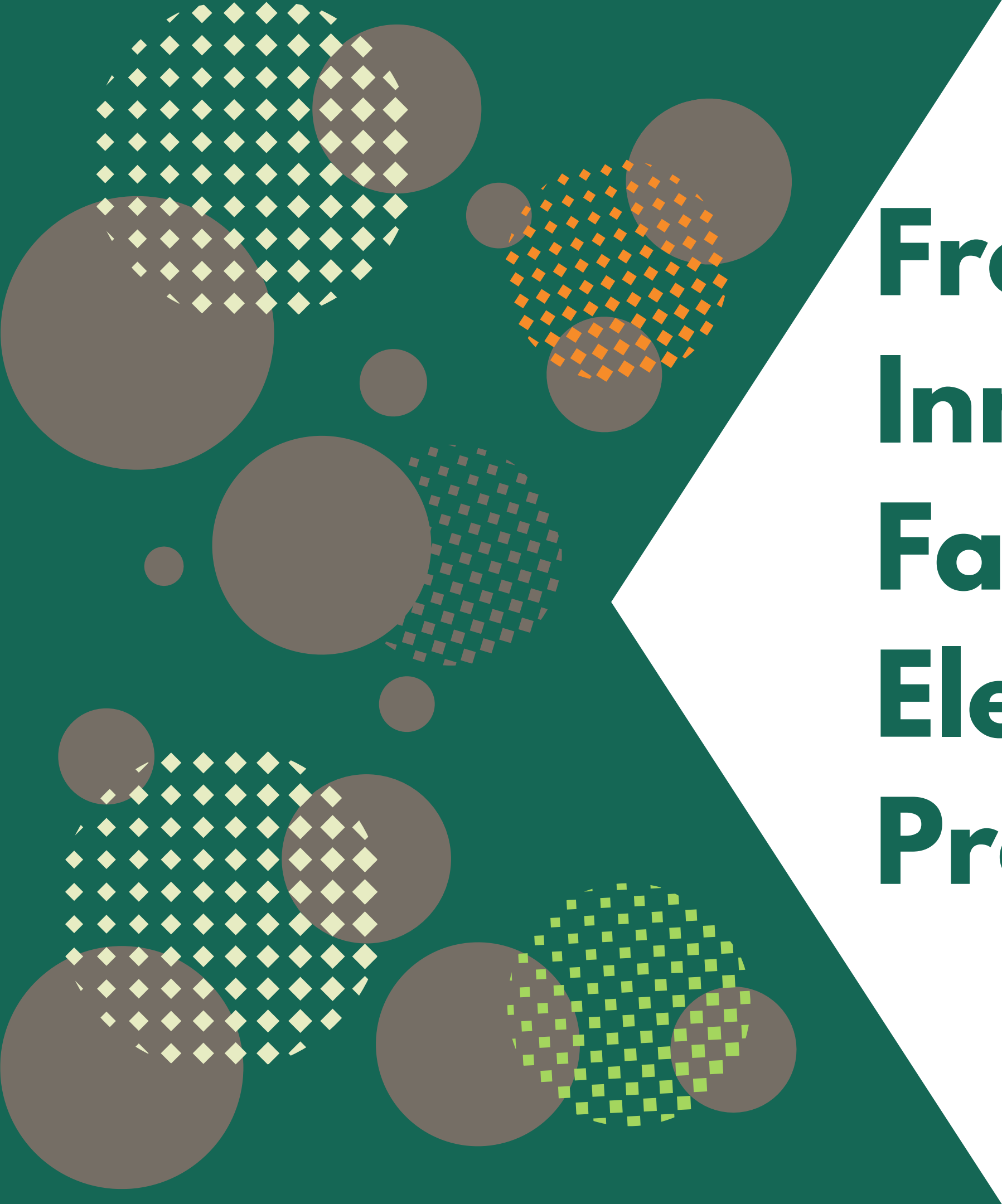




From Isolation to Innovation: How Faculty Collaboration Elevates Teacher Preparation

Jen Thompson & Jen Lisy

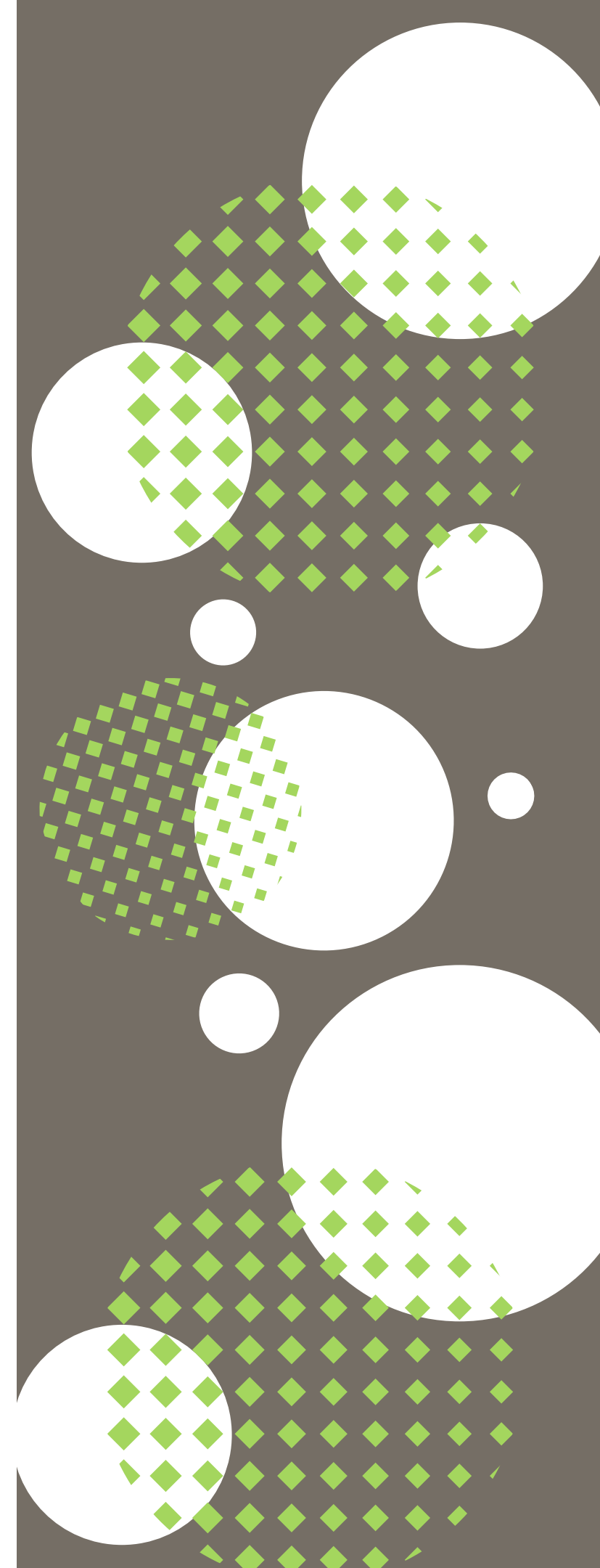
with a little help from

Kristin Diki, Joyce Thompson, & Martha Evans

Session Overview

Today we'll explore:

- **Why** we collaborate
- **How** we collaborate
- **What happens** when we collaborate
- **Discussion** and reflection





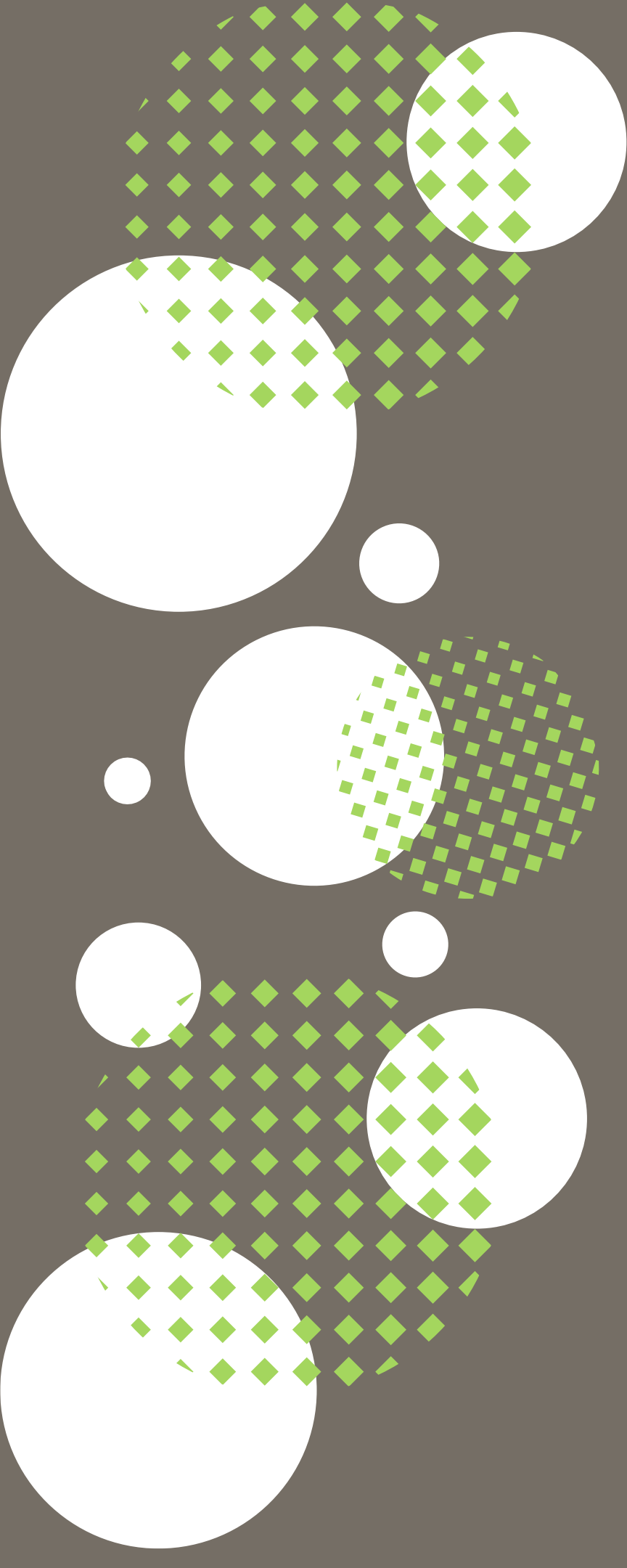
The Current Landscape

Teacher education faces unprecedented challenges:

- Sweeping legislative changes
- New licensure requirements
- Evolving educator preparation expectations
- Complex policy shifts

**The path ahead is increasingly complex—
opportunities to unite make us stronger and more resilient.**





Why Collaborate?

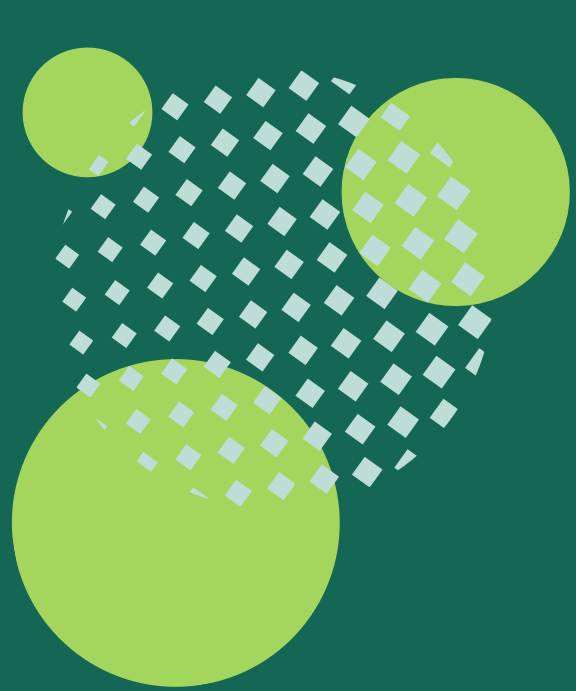
- Faculty isolation in higher ed
- Need for coherence across courses and campuses
- edTPA as a shared challenge
- Supporting faculty well-being

The Challenge

- 4 faculty members across 3 campuses
- Teaching 12+ credit hours each semester
- High teaching loads as instructional faculty
- Isolation inherent in higher education structure

The Opportunity

- Leverage collective expertise
- Address challenges that no single faculty member can solve alone
- Build resilience through community
- Create consistent experiences for teacher candidates



Our Starting Point: The EdTPA Gap



What we observed:

- Discrepancy in edTPA scores between ECEE program and other teacher education programs
- ECEE program lacked dedicated edTPA preparation course
- Need for better alignment between coursework and capstone assessment

What we did:

- Identified courses focused on assessment and curriculum planning
- Aligned with edTPA tasks 1 (planning) and 3 (assessment)
- Made edTPA a shared student experience



How We Collaborate

Our collaborative practices include:

- **In-person workdays** for intensive planning
 - **Regularly scheduled online meetings** for ongoing communication
 - **Shared Canvas resources** for materials and assignments
 - **Cross-campus coordination** for consistency
 - **Resource curation** leveraging individual expertise
- 
- 

Building on our Strengths

Each team member brings unique strengths:

- Experience with AI tools in teaching
- Deep understanding of edTPA requirements
- Significant K-12 classroom experience
- Diverse pedagogical approaches

Result: More comprehensive course materials that address topics from multiple perspectives

Results

Improved Student Outcomes

- Increased edTPA passing rates for PK-5 teacher candidates
- Enhanced student confidence in tackling the edTPA
- Better preparation for classroom teaching

Our edTPA Scores

	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Literacy	51% (n=74)	71% (n=49)	68% (n=54)	73% (n=55)
Math	64% (n=57)	61% (n=67)	68% (n=66)	90% (n=74)

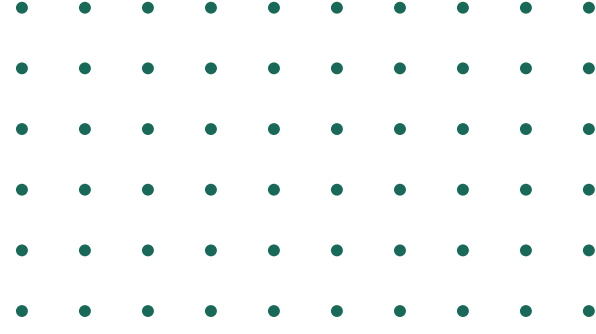
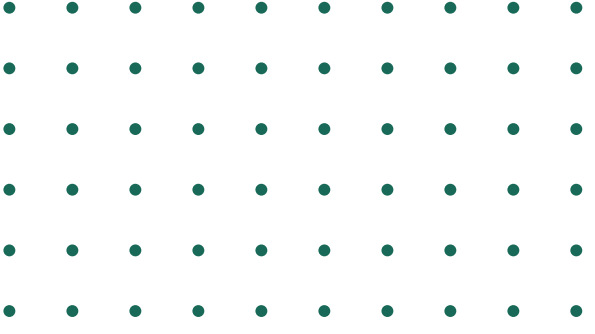
Math scores went up 22% in a year!

Results

Enhanced Student Experience

- Continuity across courses – no more disconnected experiences
- Reduced redundancy – strategic placement of resources
- Adjusted course sequences based on collaborative insights



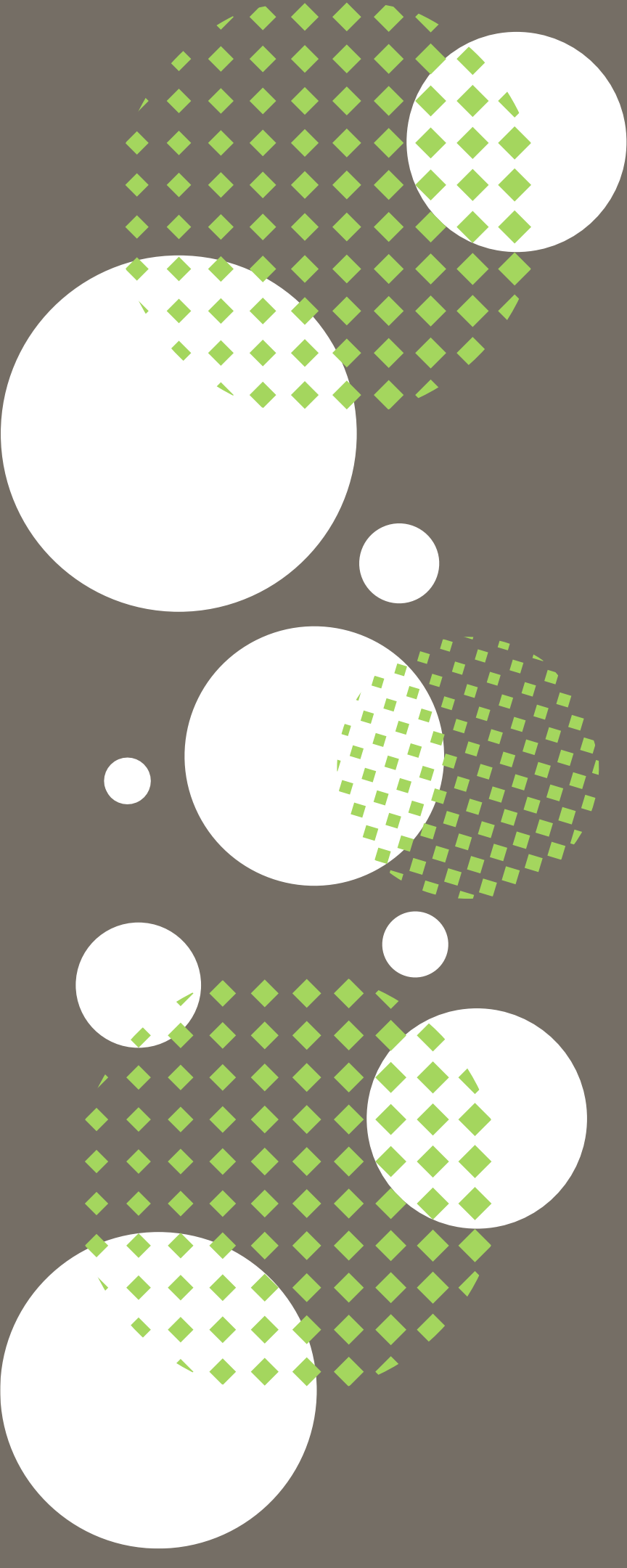


Quotes From Students

I'm incredibly grateful to Dr. Jen for all her support with the edTPA. Without her class and guidance, I'm not sure I would have passed on my first try. The edTPA can feel overwhelming, but having it embedded into our coursework made a huge difference in my confidence and preparation.

-Zoey - Class of 2025





Modeling Professional Practice

We demonstrate for our teacher candidates:

- How to collaborate effectively with colleagues
- The power of shared expertise
- Professional learning communities in action

Our students see collaboration modeled before they enter the field

Faculty Benefits: Beyond Student Outcomes

- Support system
- Professional growth
- Collective resilience



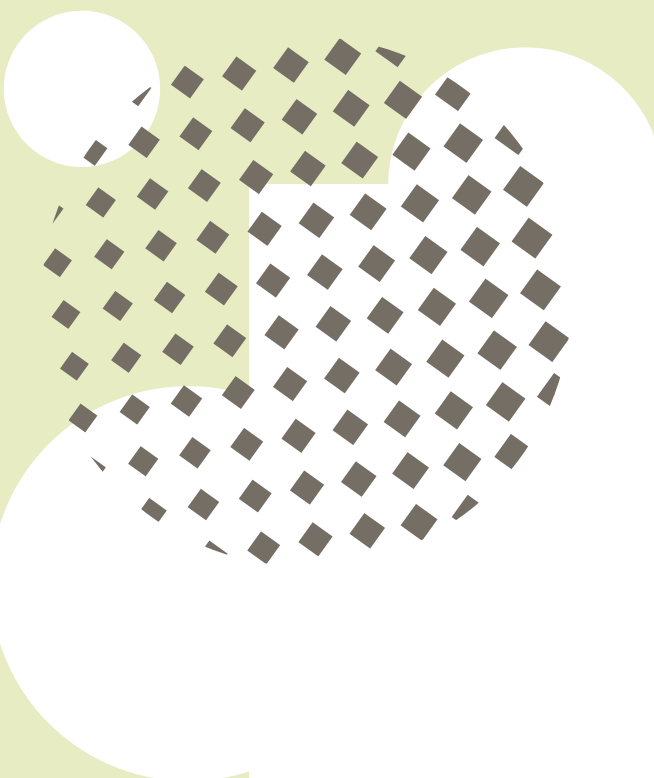
Looking Ahead: Ohio's New Licensure Bands

Our collaboration positions us to:

- **Tackle license changes as a team** rather than individually
- Update course content collaboratively
- Maintain program quality during transitions
- Support each other through implementation challenges

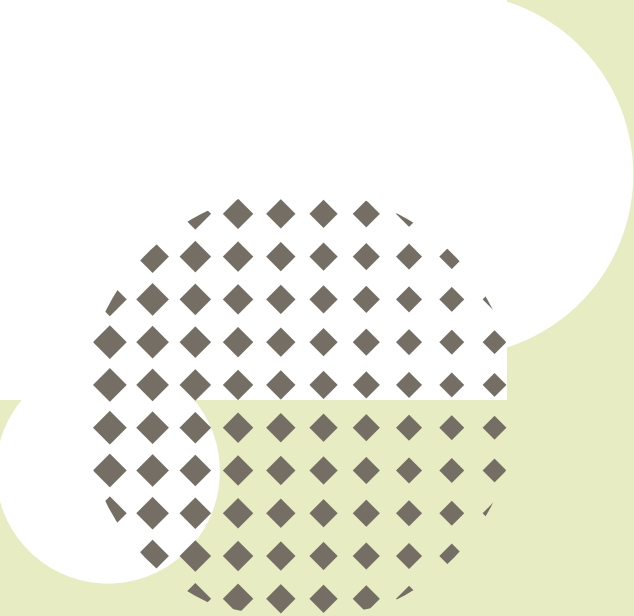
We're less vulnerable when we work together

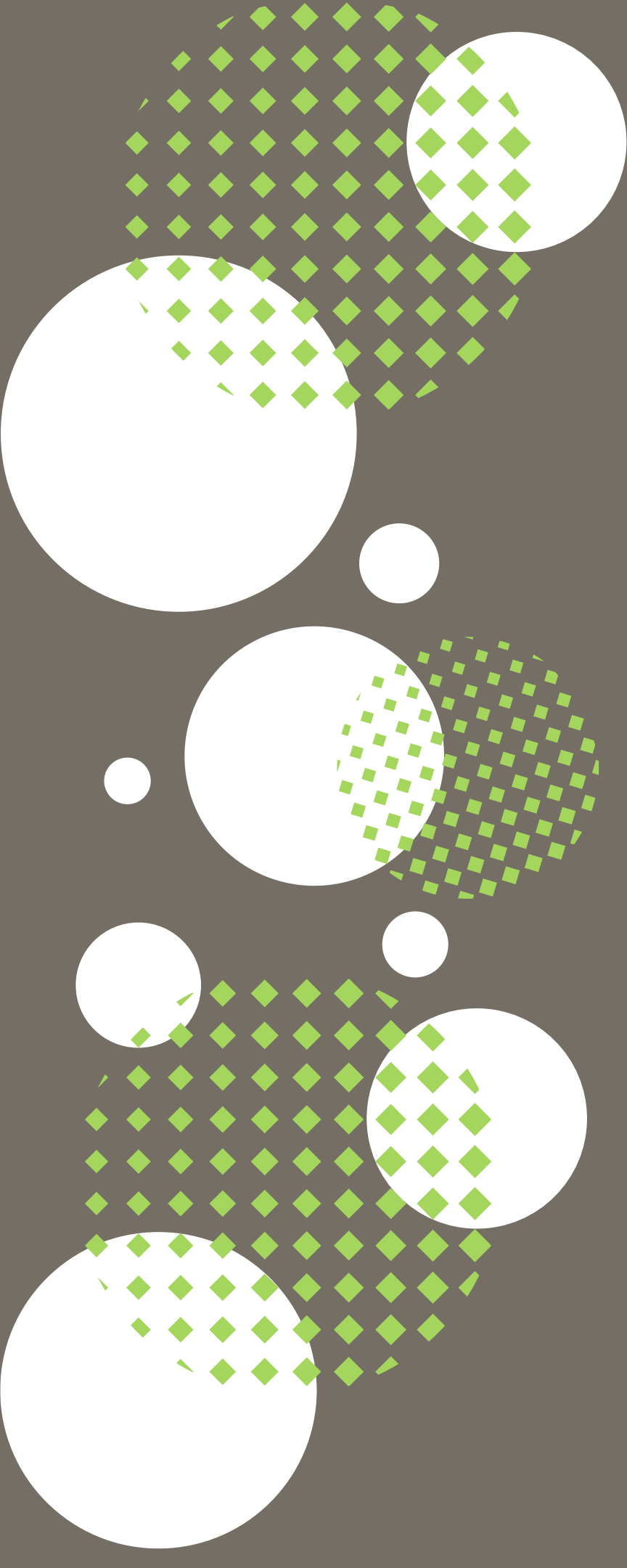




Replicating our Model

This model works because:

- **Shared goals** unite diverse faculty
 - **Technology enables** cross-campus collaboration
 - **Regular communication** maintains momentum
 - **Mutual support** sustains long-term commitment
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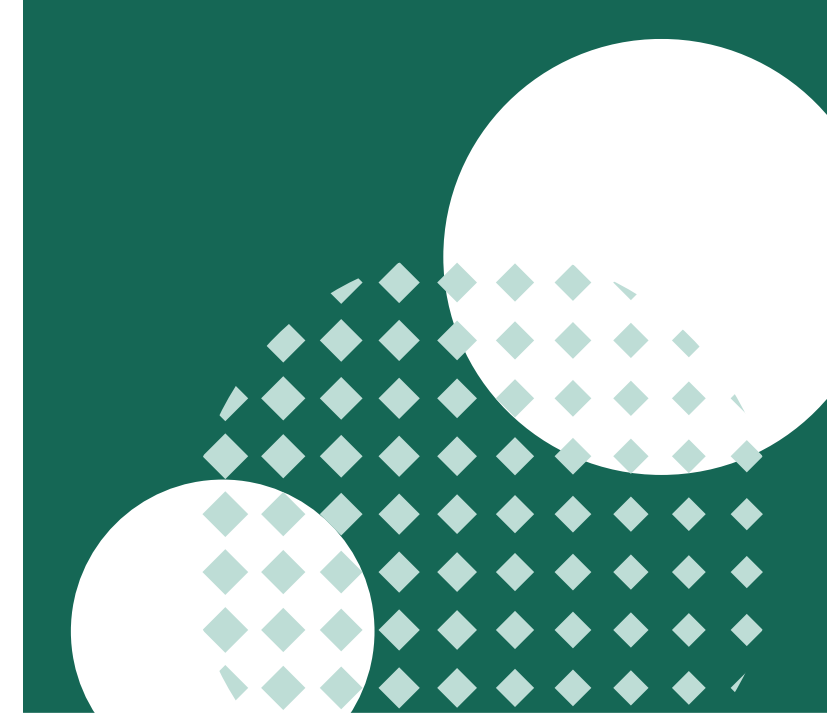


Discussion Questions

- What shared challenges could unite your faculty?
- What unique expertise does each team member bring?
- How could you leverage technology for collaboration?
- What support systems do your faculty need most?
- How do you currently collaborate with colleagues?
- What barriers have you encountered?
- What collaboration ideas emerged from today's session?



Forging a Path Together



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Thank You!