

# ENHANCING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND ENSURING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORLD BEST PRACTICES

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## INTRODUCTION.

This has been a collaborative research project involving researchers at Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education and the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. The principal investigators were Aida Sagintayeva (NUGSE) and Matthew Hartley (Penn GSE).

The purpose of this project was to learn how academic leaders at a set of six public and private institutions in Kazakhstan are preparing for greater institutional autonomy and encouraging innovation. The goal has been to identify both challenges as well as models of best practice that other institutions in Kazakhstan, the region, and elsewhere might learn from.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS.

This study seeks to examine the responses of six institutions to greater institutional autonomy. The institutions selected for the study represent different geographic regional as well as institutional types. The researchers interviewed 134 persons from key constituents groups at six institutions including senior administrators, deans and chairs, faculty members, board members, and community partners.

## CONCLUSIONS.

The findings of this study shed light on the current state of governance practices. They reveal some strategies of reform that are promising as well as areas where additional work is required. The findings also give some sense of how these issues are playing out at different kinds of institutions.

This research has sought to understand how institutional leaders in Kazakhstan are building institutional capacity and developing their human resources so that a wider group of people are actively involved in efforts to innovate and improve higher education. It also has identified particular initiatives on these campuses in the area of partnerships and boards of trustees. It should also be noted that this line of inquiry fills a gap in the wider literature on academic governance.

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