

Building Research Capacity: the University Perspective

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Identifying the message

- Does importance of extramural research funding come from the highest levels?
 - Is the focus on federal funding?
- Is it built into the university strategic plan?
 - What are the specific initiatives?

Does your unit buy into the message?

- What does your strategic plan say about extramural funding?
- What expectations have been set for faculty?
- What have been the research strengths of recent faculty hires?
- What unit resources have been devoted?

Creating your message

- Establish your strategic plan
 - Show importance of extramural RESEARCH funding
- Identify strengths
 - Do faculty have the potential for obtaining extramural funding – particularly federal funding?
- Identify what you have accomplished
 - What evidence do you have that your faculty are “poised” for the next step?
- Identify where you want to build and why
 - How does it fit with university priorities?
 - How does it fit with university initiatives (e.g., CTSA)

Spreading your message

- Give social work visibility in “research circles” on campus
 - Go to trainings
 - Go to research presentations
 - Participate in research groups
 - Volunteer to serve on the IRB
- Do assertive outreach
 - Connect with other units that are potential collaborators

Spreading your message

- Get to know key university officials
- Request VP for Research to talk about research enterprise at a “research retreat”
- Schedule a SW research showcase
 - Invite faculty from potential collaborative units
 - Invite VP for Research



Increasing your capacity

- Identify your needs for building research capacity
- Identify strategies for meeting needs
 - What will/can you do internally?
 - What do you need from the university?
- What will be your outcomes if you receive what you need?
 - Establish milestones with target dates (e.g., # of submitted proposals to federal funders, etc.)



Potential areas of university support

- Know what is available
 - Workshops/training
 - Electronic resources
 - Grant “writer”
 - IRB assistance
 - CTSA incubator
 - Office of Sponsored Programs



Potential areas of university support

- Seek more direct support to meet goals
 - Start-up packages for new hires with strong research agendas
 - 1st year supplemental support
 - Summer salary
 - Graduate assistant
- Pilot project funding
- Faculty development activities
 - Specialized workshops
 - Travel to NIH