

# *Leveraging Funds and Infrastructure Enhancements for Research Centers*

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## Panelists

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# Overview of Topics

## **Building a Center Out of Relationships and Other Projects**

*Jane Middleton (California State University, Fresno)*

- The Central Valley Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center (SWERT), formally recognized as an ancillary unit in 2005 serves as an umbrella and brings together already existing programs including Title IV-E education and training, foster parent training, a quality assurance claims process, and internships with new efforts focusing on social work related training, evaluation and research. It is a collaboration between the Department of Social Work education and Community agencies and provides an venue for faculty to seek external funding.

## **The Business Side of Research Centers**

*Wynne Korr, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

- Getting, keeping and sustaining a research center – a business perspective.

## **Building a Research Agenda**

*Jim Zabora, Catholic University of America*

- A new dean's efforts to develop and implement a research agenda through restructuring of existing centers and development of new centers, linking faculty and implementing

# Overview of Topics

## **Building Research Capacity and Funding without a Center: A Step at a Time**

*Kay Davidson, University of Connecticut*

Developing a ‘Research Center’ in some universities might be extremely complex. However there are multiple steps a dean can take to enhance research efforts including developing a doctoral program, identifying an associate dean for research, providing seed money, dedicated space, mentoring, cross-disciplinary linkages and connecting with IRB and sponsored programs.

## **Building Research Capacity and Developing a Center: Beginning Steps**

*Phyllis I. Vroom, Wayne State University*

Putting together the components to build research capacity requires several simultaneous steps including hiring a research director, strategic planning, faculty buy-in, starting a PhD program, focusing on faculty support in the pre and post award stages, higher level support and support staff training.

# Hints for Deans

- Write strong support letters
  - Impact on faculty's research career
  - Value of the research for the school and university
  - Value of the faculty to the school
  - Importance of the topic to address social ills
- Develop a multi-year plan
- Think about infrastructure – support staff, senior research point person, technical assistance for faculty, internal reviewers, external relationships to build capacity.
- Distinguish research from training, consultation and program development activities – HOWEVER, build research opportunities from these other activities.
- Develop research mentorship strategies.
- Create research partnerships with community agencies – examine models such as Casey Family Programs or Casey Family Services

# What's Hot

- Transdisciplinary research
- Dissemination research
- Implementation research
- Testing social work interventions: see NIH program announcement
- Community-based Participatory Research
- Building interdisciplinary research capacity within universities and/or within regions.

# Where is Research Funding?

- Federal agencies:
  - Within HHS: NIH, CDC, AHRQ, HRSA
  - NIJ
  - DoEd
  - DoD
  - HUD
  - VA
  - NSF
- State and local public and private agencies
- National, regional and local foundations
  - Hartford, RWJF, Lance Armstrong, American Cancer Society, etc.