Introduction

As competition for research funding increases, it is critical for research development professionals to design and implement innovative strategies that add value to and increase the impact of faculty research proposals and projects.

Research development professionals can serve as invaluable broader impact thought partners and collaborators.

Collaboration between faculty or projects and research development professionals can occur during project conceptualization, proposal development, and project implementation.

Approaches

Community-Campus Connector

- Bi-annual event started in 2013 to foster networking and collaboration among UNL’s research community and local community-based organizations.

- Goals are to:
  - Raise awareness about the benefits of and potential for community-campus partnerships,
  - Highlight best practices for planning and executing effective community-campus partnerships,
  - Provide an informal platform for discussions between UNL faculty and community partners (e.g., public and parochial schools, museums, zoos, Scouts, etc.) regarding collaborations.

Local

- A roadmap to successful collaborations with the local school district was developed.
- Curriculum coordinators from the local school district invited to serve as co-PIs on internal/external proposals.
- Faculty developed relationships with 30+ community outreach partner organizations.

Regional

- Faculty developed a winning EPSCoR Track 3 proposal focused on creating culturally-relevant chemistry curricula for Nebraska’s Tribal colleges and universities.
- EPSCoR Track 3 model was replicated as part of Nebraska’s latest EPSCoR Track 1 research infrastructure improvement proposal.
- Tribal partnerships leveraged to enhance other projects/units on campus.

Global

- Two proposal writing workshops delivered at the University of Zambia (145 Zambian administrators, faculty, staff, and students trained to date), and a third workshop is planned.
- A collection of more than 20 research project concepts outlined and peer-reviewed.
- One in-country pilot project funded following 2013 workshop – PI now applying to NIH.

Representative Impacts

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Contact

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