

**The Research
Development
Office (RDO)**
offers one-stop
“concierge” services
for submitting
more ambitious,
collaborative, and
successful research
and scholarship.

RDO: LAUNCH YEAR IN REVIEW



Office of Research and
Economic Development



DURING OUR FIRST FULL YEAR IN OPERATION, WE FOCUSED OUR EFFORTS ON:

- Launching initiatives and sponsoring events to explore how university research might be used to solve some of society's most vexing problems
- Bringing together faculty and staff from across the disciplines to grow campus connections
- Providing practical tools for collaborating, connecting with funding agencies, and pursuing major research initiatives
- Recognizing the great research and scholarship taking place at Iowa
- Fueling participants' imaginations in the area of research and discovery

ENHANCING COLLABORATION THROUGH NETWORKING

COMPUTATIONAL PSYCHIATRY SYMPOSIUM

ACTIVITY: RDO co-sponsored the first UI Computational Psychiatry Symposium. Invited guest speakers included the Program Officer for the National Institute of Mental Health's Computational Psychiatry program in addition to the head of the Allen Institute's data analysis and annotation program.

OUTCOME: Approximately 75 faculty, staff, and students engaged in a day of presentations concluding with an ideation dinner that brainstormed future research directions.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: The Computational Psychiatry interest group will continue to meet monthly.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

ACTIVITY: RDO formed a core group of leaders from seven units (Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, IIHR- Hydrosience and Engineering, and Division of Sponsored Programs) to spearhead the creation of a campus network of research development professionals.

OUTCOME: A survey was conducted to assess current research development activities and determine priorities for professional development opportunities. The survey will inform the agenda for a campus-wide meeting (July 2018) to kickoff the creation of a campus network.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Staff are interested in expanding their skills sets and contributing more to the success of the research enterprise. RDO will provide professional development opportunities to this audience.

UIMF SPEED NETWORKING

"The event introduced me to colleagues in other colleges who have similar interests to mine, but who I would not have met otherwise at any conferences or local UI events. It was nice to meet several people in a short period of time and have the ability to follow up with those with relevant overlapping interests, and not feel pressured to spend a great deal of time speaking with people who would not likely be a great match for research collaborations."

ACTIVITY: Researchers from four colleges and seven departments came together for a speed networking event at the UI Microfabrication Facility (UIMF). The goal was to: 1) forge new interdisciplinary collaborations, and 2) introduce researchers to UIMF and its micro- and nano-fabrication capabilities.

OUTCOME: A follow-up survey showed that 100% of respondents were satisfied with the event, almost 75% reported a new potential research connection, and nearly 75% gained a greater understanding of UIMF capabilities.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Speed networking is an innovative way to quickly meet new potential collaborators. The next RDO speed networking event will focus on mental health.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR OPIOID RESEARCH

OPIOID IDEAS LAB

ACTIVITY: Faculty from eight colleges representing 21 departments came together for an Ideas Lab, a three-day creative brainstorming activity to explore new solutions to the opioid epidemic. The goal was to: 1) contribute the UI's creative and intellectual resources to saving lives and families, 2) build a community around the opioid crisis, and 3) develop new teams to competitively respond to opioid funding opportunities.

OUTCOME: Four teams and ideas emerged: 1) prescriptive decisions when patients have pain, 2) Iowa substance use dataset, 3) surgery decision-making regarding opioid use, and 4) mechanisms of opioid use.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Efforts will continue to build and grow a community that is interested in addressing the opioid crisis. Further, the Ideas Lab methodology will be employed for future topics exploring today's "grand challenges".

The Opioid Ideas Lab brought together faculty from **eight colleges** representing **21 departments** to brainstorm fresh solutions to the growing opioid epidemic.

ACCELERATING PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

SEED GRANTS

ACTIVITY: RDO facilitated OVPR&ED collaborations with the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research (CGRER) and Iowa State University (ISU) in two different seed grant programs. The CGRER Large Grant Development Program was designed to facilitate proposal development and enhance competitiveness of external proposals associated with the environmental mission of CGRER. The ISU/UI Seed Grant Program was designed to facilitate collaborations between the two institutions that synergistically advance both institutions' research profiles.

OUTCOME: The CGRER program awarded two proposals, while the ISU/UI program awarded five proposals.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: The awarded proposals will be evaluated based on the programmatic objectives, the RFAs refined if necessary, and potentially offered again in future fiscal years.

JUNIOR FACULTY ATTENDANCE AT FUNDING AGENCY CONFERENCES

ACTIVITY: RDO supported junior faculty attendance at funding agency conferences to interact with program officers and learn more about agency-specific programs. Faculty attended the following conferences: 1) National Science Foundation Grants Conference (four attendees), 2) National Institutes of Health Regional Seminar (four attendees), and 3) the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's Getting to Know PCORI conference (two attendees).

OUTCOME: Participants reported that attendance was valuable for preparing proposals, particularly interacting with program officers.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Faculty members need to be at the stage to integrate the knowledge into a proposal.

NIH R01 WRITING BOOT CAMP

ACTIVITY: RDO developed a NIH R01 Writing Boot Camp for junior faculty working on their first proposal (or a resubmission of that proposal). The goal of the Boot Camp was to provide a structure for guided writing and peer feedback to enhance proposal competitiveness.

OUTCOME: Junior faculty received feedback on their proposals, while also learning to provide critiques of their peers' proposals.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: The experience was valuable for those who completed the entire series. It may be strategic to focus on junior faculty who are working on resubmissions.

GRANTS SUBMITTED

RDO staff were...
"proactive about getting this proposal going and helped shepherd it through"

"very professional and hardworking. The office's help is of great relief for me from preparing ancillary materials, so I can concentrate on the project description and proposal itself."

ACTIVITY: RDO provided proposal development services to 21 principal investigators from 15 departments on 25 proposals (six multi-institution proposals) for \$20.5 million in submitted funding.

OUTCOME: In follow-up surveys of proposal PI's, 100% stated that they were extremely satisfied with RDO detail and thoroughness, and 100% stated that they would recommend RDO to colleagues.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: RDO will continue to engage researchers from across campus to build new teams that are positioned to secure external funding, while RDO continues to provide a high level of service.

GRANT WRITING SEMINAR

ACTIVITY: In collaboration with the Carver College of Medicine, RDO delivered a one-day "Planning and Writing Successful Grant Proposals" seminar provided by AtKisson Training Group.

OUTCOME: The 175 attendees were provided strategies for constructing competitive proposals. Of the evaluation survey respondents, 97% reported that this seminar met or exceeded their expectations.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Participants valued the opportunity to receive grant writing training from an outside expert. RDO will explore hosting a session specific to the arts and humanities community.

Science on Tap

Attendance at RDO's Science on Tap lectures—which covered everything from astronomy and local foods to artificial intelligence and opioids—ran as high as **160 guests** and averaged **71 attendees**.

BRINGING SCIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

ACTIVITY: RDO and Hancher developed a lecture series at Hancher's Stanley Café for UI researchers to engage the community in a discussion of science in a fun and inviting atmosphere. Science on Tap provided seven presentations on topics including astronomy, local foods, automated driving, freshwater mussels, metabolism, artificial intelligence, and opioids.

OUTCOME: The average attendance for Science on Tap was 71 persons ranging from 37 to 160 attendees per session.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: The community has an interest in learning about the great research and scholarship undertaken at the UI. The program will continue with six additional sessions during Academic Year 2018-2019.

ACCELERATING PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

UIDP WEBINAR SERIES

ACTIVITY: RDO and DSP co-hosted a series of webinars by the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) to explore building better research partnerships between corporations and universities.

OUTCOME: Staff and faculty came together for the seven part series with an average attendance of 10 persons per session.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: It is difficult to get folks together to watch webinars, as many would prefer to watch the recorded version at a time of their choosing.

PCORI INFORMATIONAL SESSION

ACTIVITY: RDO and DSP co-hosted an informational session on the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The session's 32 participants received insights from the Getting to Know PCORI workshop as well as an introduction to available campus resources.

OUTCOME: Of the post-event survey respondents, 100% reported they were extremely satisfied with the session and would recommend similar sessions to their colleagues.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Faculty appreciated the chance to hear from recent attendees to the PCORI conference.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

ACTIVITY: RDO created a Resource Library containing examples of successful proposals including those geared toward federal agencies and private foundations.

OUTCOME: A website was created to house examples and informational material from the following agencies and foundations: 1) National Science Foundation, 2) National Institutes of Health, 3) National Endowment for the Humanities, 4) John A Hartford Foundation, 5) Kaufmann Foundation, and 6) Russell Sage Foundation.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: The RDO will continue to build out this resource.

NSF CAREER WORKSHOP

ACTIVITY: RDO and DSP co-hosted two informational sessions for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) CAREER program. The format included information about internal procedures and two faculty panel presentations. The first panel included four recent CAREER awardees and the second panel consisted of four senior faculty with NSF reviewer experience.

OUTCOME: Participants left the session with tangible ideas about integrating the research and education components within their proposals.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: Faculty appreciate the chance to hear from both past CAREER recipients and reviewers for strategies to use when developing their proposals.

100%
of the PCORI
post-event
survey
respondents
reported they
were extremely
satisfied with
the session

UI3 SUMMER OF GRANTS

ACTIVITY: Over the summer of 2017, RDO collaborated with UI Informatics Initiative (UI3) to host a "Summer of Grants" where campus researchers came together once a week over lunch and discussed big data research topics. Following the weekly meeting, RDO hosted office hours to discuss grant-related activities with potential researchers.

OUTCOME: Weekly meetings were held at UI3 from late June to mid-August with an average attendance of six persons per meeting.

LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT: It is important to remind folks about these types of activities with multiple communication avenues as well as having defined funding opportunities for consideration.

HOW CAN RDO HELP YOU?

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