

# THE UT DALLAS STORY

**In which an event planner becomes a Research  
Development Director and it actually works (maybe)**

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**NORDP 2012 Conference**

**Session: Maximizing Potential with Minimal Resources**



# UT DALLAS RD CHALLENGES



- We want to be Tier One, which requires:
  - More research expenditures
  - More research faculty
  - Graduating more PhDs
- We have one full-time RD staff member
- We have “usual suspect” researchers



# A BIT ABOUT UT DALLAS

- FY2011 – nearly \$94 million in research expenditures
- 454 faculty members
  - 20% are “active in research”
    - Management school is huge but not researchers
- Founded in 1969 as a graduate institution
  - 1972: The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted accreditation
  - 1973: First graduates (biology and physics)
  - 1975: Juniors and seniors admitted (enrollment grows to more than 3,000)
  - 1990: Freshman and sophomore students admitted
- Have more than 18,000 students
  - About 2/3<sup>rd</sup> undergraduate students
- The majority of our funding is NSF
  - Have funding in NIH, DARPA, Foundations



# UT DALLAS – A RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ONE SINCE 2011



- Faculty Funding Searches/General Support
  - Limited submissions
  - InfoEd/SPIN+ training
  - General help to faculty
- Large Grant Project Management
  - IGERT
  - Centers
- Support Groups
  - NSF CAREER
  - Writing/Editing
  - Considering “NSF for NIH” and vice versa
- Student centric programs
- General oddities
  - Science Pub program
  - Conferences



# MAXIMIZING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS (OR YOU AREN'T AS ALONE AS YOU THINK YOU ARE)

- Maximizing Through Partnerships
  - Office of the Provost
    - Junior Faculty Mentoring Program
    - Actively working with the recent hires to find/apply for funding
  - Office of Development
    - Corporate opportunities, especially internships for students
  - Office of Diversity and Community Engagement
    - REUs
    - Recruitment programs with other universities
  - Science & Engineering Education Center
    - Linking for Broader Impacts
  - Department of Undergraduate Education
    - Undergraduate Research Fund



# LESSONS LEARNED (OR REINVENTING THE WHEEL)

- Use what you did before Research Development for Research Development
  - Take advantage of the dozens of types of “research development”
  - Science Pub
- Whenever you can talk to groups, do it
  - Writing/Editing workshop
  - NSF CAREER Support Group
- Attend faculty seminars (even if you don’t understand what is being said)
- Take a moment to think strategically
  - The NSF CAREER Award question
  - A case for new hires?
- Talk to people – there are more two person departments than twenty person departments on campus
  - But remember who you work for



# THANKS FOR LISTENING!

- Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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# REALITY BITES: LET'S CHAT

- How do you
  - Find time for strategic thinking?
    - Supervisor: “I need you to think strategically as soon as you get this paperwork done.”
  - Start from scratch?
    - I need a grant success to get trust/respect but I need folks to trust/respect me to get grant success
  - Do a needs assessment/Meet the faculty?
  - Find partnerships?
    - Within the system?
    - With other schools?
  - Deal with expectations you can't meet?
    - “So, you'll write my grant then?”
    - “So, you have grant money to give?”
  - Differentiate yourself from the Office of Sponsored Projects?
  - Do your job without a PhD?

