

Southwest Research & Innovation Conference

PRESENTATION BY HANNAH TORRES (PI)

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Organizing Committee & Facilitators

- Cinda Christian, University of Texas, Austin
- Clayton Cottle, Sam Houston State
- Jennifer Lyon Gardner, University of Texas, Austin
- Gavin Jones, Lamar University
- Jennifer Kavka, University of New Mexico
- Andra Kiscaden, NM EPSCOR; University of New Mexico
- Jerry Lin, Lamar University
- Brian Loft, Sam Houston State
- Erin Lovelady, Lamar University
- Monica Swift, Texas State University
- Hannah Yohalem, University of New Mexico

Thank you

Background

- Solicitations encouraging more collaboration
- Proposal requirements more complex
- How to assure all institutions have role in research & innovation
- Already under-resourced RA/RD workforce
- New approaches needed

Guiding Questions

- What barriers, gaps, needs and challenges need to be addressed within the research enterprise in the Southwest to support building research and innovation capacity at local institutions?
- How do stakeholders across the research enterprise define success for enhancing research and innovation capacity?
- What future steps need to be taken to improve our ability to work collaboratively across all types of institutions in the Southwest to address our challenges and increase our likelihood of success?

Who was there?

State	Participants	Organizations/ Institutions represented
Arizona	5	3
Colorado	2	1
New Mexico	30	16
Texas	22	13
Total	59	33

Participating Institutions

- Adams State University
- Angelo State University
- Arizona Western College
- Central New Mexico Community College
- Clark Atlanta University
- Dine College
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Lamar University
- NM Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Navajo Technical University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- NM EPSCoR
- Prairie View A&M University
- Sam Houston State University
- Sandia National Laboratories
- Santa Fe Community College
- Santa Fe Institute
- St. Mary's University
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- Texas Woman's University
- University of Arizona
- University of New Mexico
- University of North Texas
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Texas: Rio Grande Valley
- TMAC/University of Texas: Arlington
- UNM-Gallup
- UNM-Taos
- UNM-Valencia

Conference Format & Data

- Workshops
- Panels
- Listening Sessions (Field notes and Google Form responses):
 - Session 1: Gaps/Barriers, Challenges
 - Session 2: Envisioning the Future
 - Session 3: Priorities & Next Steps
- Culminating Round Table (Transcribed Post-it Notes)
 - Key recommendations for NSF

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Outcomes

Theme 1: Faculty

- Lack of support and resources
- Need more faculty interested in research
- Accessibility of existing resources/services

Our faculty would need to feel supported in their research efforts rather than stressed about how those efforts may hinder their other responsibilities (Listening Session; Google Form Response)

More faculty interested in research. The same faculty members are submitting without a lot of new researchers. (Listening session; Google form response)

Outcomes

Theme 2: Staff

- Lack of Staff
- Turnover
- Need for Training and Development
 - RA Literacy for Faculty & Staff

*“Frequent changes in staff and administration leave institutions without the institutional knowledge to succeed.”
(Listening session; field notes)*

*“We need centralized research admin training/mentorship to enhance RA skillset across campus and open up capacity for RD professional to do RD.”
(Listening session; Google form response)*

Outcomes

Recommendations for NSF

- Funding for professional development
- Help offices provide outreach for RA/RD as a career option. What skills do you need? What are the career ladders?
- Build-in RD/RA support in awards
- Funding internships w/in RD/RA offices
- Fund remote management training and team building
- Staff exchanges among institutions
- Establish an RD Fellows Program

Outcomes

Theme 3: Collaboration & Resource-Sharing

- Formal structures for networking / cooperation across research enterprise
- Improved external collaborative structures
- Partnerships outside academia
- Centralized repository for resources, documents

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(Listening session; field notes)*

*“We need centralized research admin training/mentorship to enhance RA skillset across campus and open up capacity for RD professional to do RD.”
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Outcomes

Recommendations for NSF

- Regional support for smaller institutions-admin support for small offices
- Establish regional communities of practice for RA/RD professionals
- Create a regional organization that would support institutions with training/templates/examples
- NSF could fund regional RA/RD affinity groups

Outcomes

Theme 4: University Leaders' Awareness & Support

- RA/RD disciplines, their intricacies, and how to align resources and services
- Importance and credibility of RA/RD staff
- Misalignment between leaders' messages to engage in research, without adequate resources and support for faculty success

“Give workshops about research development for university leadership. Direct info about what’s happening and what the needs are.” (Listening session; Google form response)

“Lot of mixed signals from leadership - they want more research, but won't give people protected time to do the research.” (Listening session; Google form response)

Outcomes

Recommendations for NSF

- Provosts session with SROs on the importance of RD/RA - Maybe with college presidents
- A marketing campaign for RA/RD jobs
- A National Academies Study! Give us some credibility

Recommendations for Institutions & Research Enterprise Leadership

- Invest in:
 - Reducing faculty teaching loads and release time
 - Hiring more research-productive faculty
 - Hiring more staff
 - Training and developing existing staff
 - Increasing RA/RD staff salaries to enhance retention.

Recommendations for GRANTED & NSF

- Three Key Actions
 - Utilize collaborative programs to incentivize intentional support for RA/RD activities (e.g. dedicated funding for RA/RD activities at lesser resourced institutions for things like training/support)
 - Fund regional RA/RD training centers to develop/disseminate work defining best practices and processes (w/focus on lesser-resourced institutions) *
 - pre-/post-award admin load on NSF grantees to understand impact on emerging research institutions & elucidate solutions

* This could potentially be via GRANTED

Upcoming Sessions

- **Webinar 2: November 14, 1-2pm MT**
 - Research Administration Job Families Insights from Tufts and University of Texas Rio Grande
- **Webinar 3: November 20, 2-3pm MT**
 - Southwest Research and Innovation Idea Pitches

Questions? Suggestions?

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