EARDA Town Hall Meeting October 20, 2009

The Working Group Model
California State University, San Bernardino

"The Working Group Model"

- Purpose of the Model
- Barriers to faculty progress
- Incentive for attending and continuing to work with the ORD.
- Schedule of meetings and topics
  - General research issues at CSUSB
  - Specific issues related to external funding
  - Timeline
- Collaboration
  - New ideas from colleagues
  - Peer pressure to your advantage
- Major Challenges
  - Getting them started
  - Keep focused on goals

Purpose

The goal of the program is to move faculty along from small pilot funding to presentation at a professional meeting, to publication in a professional journal, and finally to external grant application and funding.

Barriers

- Heavy teaching load: 36 quarter units per year
- RPT is heavily influenced by
  - Years of service
  - Teaching
  - Service within the university
- Importance and Encouragement to do research is relatively new to the university
  - Differences between CSU and UC systems
  - Some faculty chose the CSU due to the heavy teaching emphasis over research

Incentives

- Requirement of continued EARDA funding
- Emphasis benefits
  - Collaboration
  - Help with forms
  - Review of work, including mock review sessions
- Encouraging departments to consider giving "release time" for faculty involved in activities

The Meeting

- Started with one meeting per month, changed to two per quarter (6 per year) – not including individual meeting
- Topics:
  - General issues related to the university
    - IRB, ORSP
    - Fitting research in and planning for the future
  - External Funding
    - Finding the proper opportunity
    - The application process
  - Working on specific sections of the grant
- Timeline
  - Working backwards from proposal due date
  - Making it realistic

Collaboration

- Faculty are given time to present their ideas and get feedback from faculty in other departments that look at things from a different perspective.

- Opportunities to expand work based on similar research interests

- Knowing others are working on their project seems to help in moving all forward.

- Create e-mail list with participants to enhance discussion.

Major Challenges

- Getting the faculty member beyond the idea stage to specifically planning a project and flushing out ideas.
- Keeping faculty focused on the goal and not distracted by other responsibilities.
- Working through conflict between:
  - Faculty member with faculty member
  - Faculty member with support staff
    - ORSP
    - Secretarial
    - Technician