Best Practices for Centers and Institutes

A Participatory Workshop led by

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Best Practices for Centers and Institutes

Workshop Leaders

• Theresa Mayer, Vice President for Research & Innovation, Virginia Tech

• Ramesh Kolluru, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

• Karl V. Steiner, Vice President for Research, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
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Interactive and Participatory Session

Three Overall Blocks for Discussion

• 20 Minutes Each

• Purpose and Process (Green Team)

• Structures and Policies (Gold Team)

• Institutional Commitment and Support (Blue Team)
Purpose and Process

The Five Life Phases of a Center/Institute
• Start-up & Initial Support
• Sustainable Operations
• Continuous Evaluation
• Transition & Re-Alignment
• Sun-Setting

Different Missions for Centers/Institutes
• Research – Education – Outreach

Center vs. Institute
• Guidelines or Hierarchies between these two Categories

How do Centers/Institutions go through the Approval Process?
• Many Institutions have more Centers than Departments
Purpose and Process

• 12 Minutes Table Discussion
• Reporting out led by Green Tables
Structures and Policies

Reporting Structures

• Institutional Centers – Dean, VPR, Provost, President, other?
• Departmental Centers

Centers or Institutes that span multiple Units/Colleges

• Sharing Attribution of Credit
• Sharing Financial Benefit
Structures and Policies

• 12 Minutes Table Discussion
• Reporting out led by Golden Tables
Institutional Commitment & Support

Administrative Support

• Multiple Sets of Skills needed for effective Center Support
• Financial, Programmatic, Grant Writing/Editing, Award Management, Events Planning, etc.
• Often Small Centers may not have the Resources for multiple Staff Members, although one Individuals may not have all of the needed Skills
• Solution – Shared Center Administration and Management, where Centers buy into a pool of well trained and capable staff members that can support them
• The challenge is for the Shared Services Center to manage multiple competing Directors and Deadlines

Institutional Commitment

• Conditions to receive Institutional Support
• Space, Equipment Maintenance, Personnel
• F&A Recovery Re-Investment
Institutional Commitment & Support

• 12 Minutes Table Discussion
• Reporting out led by Blue Tables
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Wrap-Up and Thank You