RESEARCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING INITIATIVE

Research in ACTION pilot faculty leadership program

Advancing Collaborative Teams: Inclusive Opportunities Network

Ever thought about how to develop a research center or institute? Interested in creating a space for multi-disciplinary research scholars to flourish? Want to learn how grassroots, faculty-led research hubs, initiatives, and teams of all sizes can come to fruition and flourish?

The challenges facing society today require innovative, comprehensive approaches that cut across disciplines and address complex problems. The Academic Planning Research Workgroup[[1]](#footnote-1) recognized the opportunity for Marquette to develop faculty-led Research Communities that will serve to bring together researchers/scholars with shared interests in exploring and addressing complex problems that require engagement across individual disciplines. Successful research communities will require diverse research teams with faculty leaders that can drive forward a coherent shared mission and plans that advance scholarship. Often, faculty, who are highly trained in their specific disciplines, may not feel prepared to take on large-scale research endeavors. As such, it is important to train and develop scholars to become leaders beyond their individual programs of research and within a space that converges disciplines, facilitates innovation, and advances knowledge.

The Research Workgroup has charged the vice president for research and innovation (VPRI) with overseeing the creation of a pipeline program to help develop research leaders who can successfully supervise large scale projects. An EAB webinar on “Fine-tuning Center and Institute Managing” was held in May 2021 to begin exploring this topic.[[2]](#footnote-2) The proposed Research in ACTION pilot program has been developed in collaboration with the Office of Research and Innovation Faculty Fellow, Dr. Lucas Torres. We propose using the initial pilot year as a way to engage participants as collaborative builders of the program so that we can utilize faculty insight to create programming that will best serve the needs of both experienced and emerging research leaders.

Planning for the Research in ACTION pilot will occur in Fall 2021 and will bring together faculty who have experience in leading complex larger-scale research efforts (such as centers, institutes, collaborations involving multiple partner institutions, etc.) to discuss their perceptions of challenges and barriers at Marquette as well as strategies for success and opportunities that they have found to be of value in building complex research teams or initiatives.

Together we will prioritize topics for Spring 2022 programming which will be open to all campus faculty; a preliminary list of potential topics is provided below. Planning team members may continue as participants in the pilot program and may be asked to serve as panelists or discussants for specific topics in which they have expertise.

**Potential Topic Areas**

1. Research program mission development
2. Business plan and strategic planning
3. Budget and funding strategy
4. Compliance considerations
5. Navigating university systems and offices
6. Team assembly
7. Consensus building and dealing with conflict
8. Communication strategies
9. Leveraging an entrepreneurial mindset for adaptability in challenging environments

The spring semester Research in ACTION pilot program participants will meet monthly and provide feedback on the programming so that we can further refine the Research in ACTION activities to best serve the campus community. We will also collaborate with the Committee on Research in aligning the program activities with the final process for creating Research Communities.

**Program Eligibility Requirements**

* Tenured, tenure-track, or non-tenure track faculty
* Successful program of research
* Evidence of developing academic collaboration or community partnerships
* Desire to facilitate and participate in large-scale interdisciplinary research efforts.

**Format**

* Monthly 2-hour meetings throughout the spring semester that may include:
	+ Panel discussions with experts
	+ Workgroup, brainstorming, and/or design development

**Expectations of Research in ACTION Participants**

* **Regular attendance** at meetings (meetings may be scheduled either in-person or virtual, depending on campus protocols)
* **Active participation and commitment to provide input for future programming**
* Complete **pre-reading and activities/webinars** as assigned.

**How to Apply**

* If you are interested in joining the Research in ACTION planning team, please complete the brief online form found [here](https://www.marquette.edu/innovation/research-in-action-form1.php), indicating your interest and experience with leading complex large-scale research initiatives, by or November 5, 2021. We anticipate holding our planning meeting(s) in November or early December.
* If you are interested in participating in the Research in ACTION pilot program during the Spring semester, please complete this brief [online form](https://www.marquette.edu/innovation/research-in-action-form2.php) by November 5, 2021.
* Please contact Lucas Torres (lucas.torres@marquette.edu), Faculty Fellow, Office of Research and Innovation with any questions.
1. The full report of the Research Workgroup is available here: <https://www.marquette.edu/economic-planning/restricted/documents/research-work-group-final-report-may-2021.pdf> (requires VPN for access from outside of the campus network). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A recording of this webinar as well as a file containing the slide deck is available under the Past Events heading at [Research Academic Planning Workgroup // Research and Innovation // Marquette University](https://www.marquette.edu/innovation/research-planning.php). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)