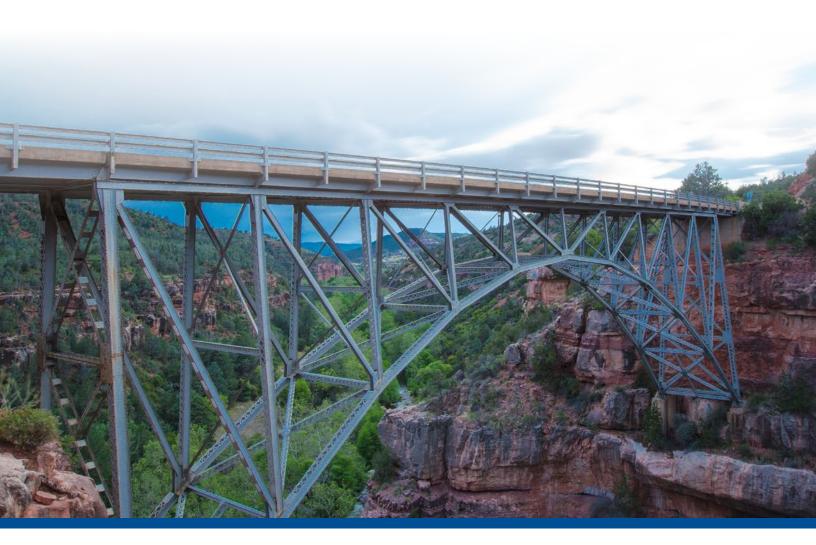# ai ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS

BUILDING BRIDGES: SKILLS AND STRATEGIES TO FACILITATE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAMS

July 31 – August 2, 2019 | Atlanta, GA

Interdisciplinary research yields more significant results. Do you have the essential skills to effectively further these projects on your campus?

Interdisciplinary research (IDR) is the future of academic research; it builds bridges between diverse ideas and methodologies, provides a competitive edge for external funding, and delivers high-impact findings.

However, this unique work presents a special set of challenges for everyone involved. Differences in expectations and culture across disciplines and team members can lead to conflict and misunderstanding.

As a research developer, you are a leader and a coach for interdisciplinary teams; you need extensive communication, leadership, and teamwork skills to work across disciplines and achieve mutually-agreeable outcomes.

Join us for this unique learning experience to expand your leadership skill set and learn how to build, facilitate, and fund interdisciplinary research at your institution. Through a series of practical and interactive sessions you'll dive deep into how to:

- Adopt effective communication strategies to break down silos
- Use seed funding to propel IDR
- Engage underrepresented groups
- Coach faculty to write effective strategic grant proposals
- Gather metrics, evaluate projects, and celebrate successes

During this workshop, there will be ample time provided to network with your peers from across the country, who are engaged in the same work as you are. You will leave the program with increased confidence to facilitate successful interdisciplinary research teams at your institution.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This workshop is designed for research development leaders and professionals who are in charge of facilitating interdisciplinary research at their institution.

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AGENDA

Day 1: July 31, 2019

Registration

12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

The Landscape of Interdisciplinary Research: Challenges, Benefits, and Considerations

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

What is the current state of interdisciplinary research (IDR) in higher education? What challenges and benefits accompany interdisciplinary research? Where does it have the most potential? This session will help ground us in the current state of IDR in higher education and explore examples of IDR research projects that have had far reaching success.

Afternoon Break

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Building Interdisciplinary Communication Across Your Institution

3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Getting the word out and igniting interest in interdisciplinary research opportunities is a beneficial place to start, but breaking down silos and communicating across disciplines can be challenging. During our discussion, you will explore your role as communicator and connector. This session will also include programming and event-planning strategies.

Wrap-Up Day One

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Networking Reception (included in registration fee)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m

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Day 2: August 1, 2019

Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Using Different Levels of Seed Funding to Accelerate Interdisciplinary Research

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

One way to advance interdisciplinary research is to use seed funding mechanisms. We will discuss a variety of ways you can use any budget to foster interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty. We will also cover strategies for sustaining teams once they have secured seed funding.

Interdisciplinary Competencies

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Before starting an interdisciplinary research projects, the your team must be aware of key differences in discipline norms, how research is conducted and how success is measured. Due to the way higher education is structured with departments and disciplines, people do not get regular exposure to other disciplines unless they actively seek them out. We will dive into interdisciplinary competency and hone in on ways to share a common language and goals across disciplines.

Morning Break

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Engaging Underrepresented Groups in Research

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Besides engaging faculty from across disciplines, it's also crucial to engage intercultural and diverse teams. In this session, we will discuss how to get underrepresented groups involved in order to vary the perspectives and broaden the valuable contributions of the group.

Lunch (included in registration fee)

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Leadership Principles for Cultivating Interdisciplinary Research: Collaboration and Communication

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Research developers often act as leader and coach to groups of faculty. This interactive leadership session will include working time to practice creating a shared vision, removing barriers, setting up collaborative spaces, and building consensus and trust.

Afternoon Break

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Leadership Principles for Cultivating Interdisciplinary Research: Managing and Removing Barriers

2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

This second interactive session will explore more specific components of coaching and leadership including project management, conflict management, change management, and coaching faculty to be principal investigators.

Wrap-Up Day Two

4:00 – 4:15 p.m.

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Day 3: August 2, 2019

Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Securing Funding: How to Write Strategic Grant Proposals

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

How can we coach faculty to write strategic grant proposals that highlight the core purpose of their research? This is not your average grant proposal writing session; our speakers will help you coach faculty to describe their goals and secure funding for their interdisciplinary projects.

Morning Break

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Evaluating Research Outcomes and Celebrating Successes

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Many time, evaluation and celebration is a forgotten stage of any major project. Closing the loop is another leadership skill that is easily unattended. After this closing session, you'll better understand how to gather metrics, evaluate the project, and celebrate successes, further bolstering interdisciplinary research interest at your institution.

Wrap-Up Conference and Q&A

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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INSTRUCTORS

Nathan Blouin

Director, Office of Research Development, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Nathan has over 10 years' experience in Research Development and pre-award Sponsored Research Administration. As Director of UNC's Office of Research Development, he constantly looks for new ways to support the research mission of the university. Prior to joining UNC in 2016, Nathan led a large and complex proposal support effort at New York University (NYU) within the Office of Sponsored Research. Over the years, Nathan has supported dozens of successful large scale proposal efforts, across a number of federal, state, and private grant-making agencies. He holds an MBA in Finance, Marketing, and Strategy from NYU, and a BA in Chemical Biology and Philosophy from Boston University.

Melissa Edwards

Executive Director of Strategic Research Communications, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Melissa leads strategic communications activities for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working to connect the scholarly community with resources to conduct research, find collaborators, identify funding opportunities, develop and submit proposals, publicize awards, and share the impact of their discoveries.

She also oversees a number of University-wide initiatives that support collaboration and communication, including the Research Communications Council, an information sharing and professional development group that works to showcase the Illinois research enterprise and build member literacy in topics related to research administration and the communication of science. A former Peace Corps Volunteer, she has a B.S. in Public Relations and an M.S in Journalism.

ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS STAFF

Ashley Brand

Program Manager, Academic Impressions

Ashley is an educator and project manager with an extensive background in program development, process improvement, and facilitating teams. She serves as a Program Manager on the Academic Impressions team and designs all programs in the Academic Affairs domain. She loves connecting people with knowledge and resources and is very passionate about professional development and innovation particularly in realm of education.

Prior to joining AI, she served as a Lean Process Improvement consultant for the City and County of Denver as well as a Content Producer for a custom eLearning company in Chicago. An artist at heart, Ashley holds a BA from the University of Denver and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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LOCATION

July 31 – August 2, 2019 | Atlanta, GA

Hotel:

Grand Hyatt Atlanta
3300 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
404.237.1234

Room rate:

$189 + tax

Room block dates:

The nights of July 30, 31 and August 1, 2019.

Room block cutoff date:

July 9, 2019.

Reserve Your Room: Please call 404.237.1234 and indicate that you are with the Academic Impressions group to receive the group rate. Please book early - rooms are limited and subject to availability.

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The Academic Impressions Experience

Intimate, workshop-style trainings with personalized attention

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Carefully-vetted expert instructors who are also practitioners in the field

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