

Research Development – A unique element of the research enterprise

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Research Development (RD) has converged as a distinct set of activities and expertise from traditional research administration functions and research leadership administrative roles. RD overlaps with more typical research administration in the shared goal of enhancing researcher and institutional competitiveness for sponsored research. However, in addition to proposal development, RD promotes capacity-building activities for strategic research advancement, knowledge creation and dissemination, and collaboration enhancement through team science. RD professionals often play a unique and crucial role in catalyzing research stakeholder interactions and activities, and identifying and enabling novel opportunities. This workshop will present and explore Research Development as it is primarily practiced in the USA. Through interactive large and small group discussions and brainstorming, we will also examine the commonalities and distinctions between the role of a Research Development professional and that of a Research Administrator, a Research Manager or a Research Facilitator. They will also have the opportunity to experience research development “in action” through a series of research enterprise simulations meant to highlight RD skills and activities in different contexts. Attendees will take away an understanding of what is meant by ‘Research Development’ and how it relates to other research support roles.

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