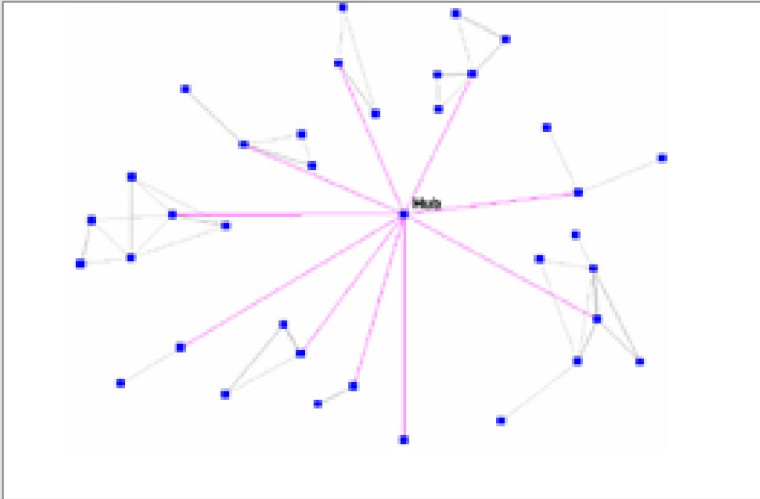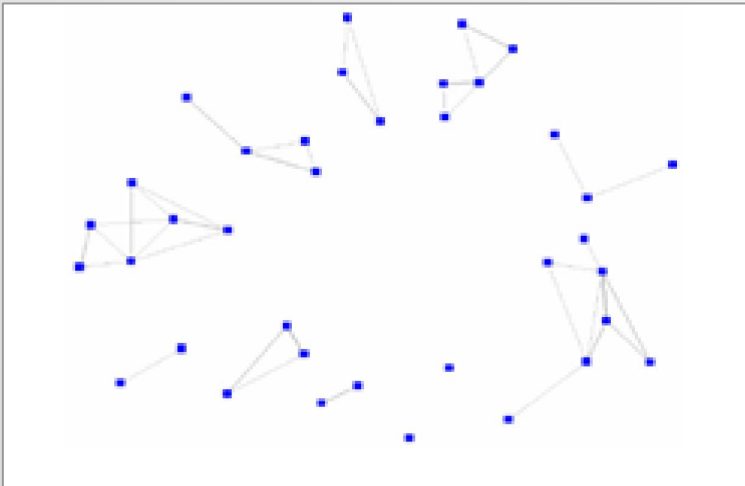# CAMPUS RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS

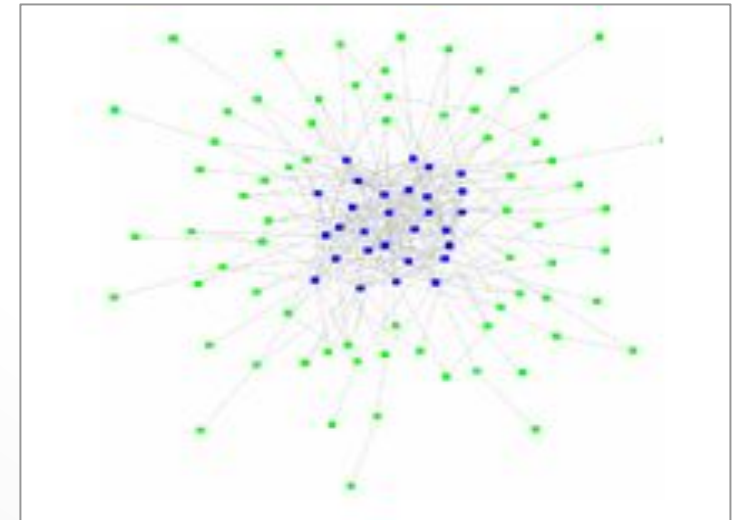Exploring the Expertise in Your Own Backyard

WHY CAMPUS RD NETWORKS?

At a university with a central RD office, RD professionals can connect to expertise and information through that central group in a core and spoke model.

Many universities, however, do not have a central RD office that functions in this way.

A campus networking group moves a scattered network into a core/periphery network.

Research Development Community of Practice
2014-present

History and Activities

- 2014: NORDP spurred campus networking at home (network = 5-10 people)
- 2016-18: Annual half-day "mini-NORDPs" (network = 10-25 people)
  - Presentations from colleagues on large-scale projects, faculty development & peer review
  - ~50 attendees (2016) to 150 attendees (2018)
  - Nominal buy-in from units (<$300 from multiple units for food/space)
  - Growing an internal listserv
- 2019: Host all-day NORDP GL Meeting for 180 attendees
  - Event supported by registration fees, staff effort from MICHR (our CTSA) & UMOR funding

Research Development Community of Practice
2014-present

Challenges
- Decentralized campus; no central leadership/guidance in RD
- Definition of RD as distinct from, and complementary to, research administration
- RDCP is not representative of all schools/colleges/institutes
  - RD staff exist in about half of the major research units
- Leadership buy-in (value of RD?)

Progress
- In 2019, the Office of Research established a Director of RD position for better coordination/collaboration of efforts across campus and to provide services for low-resource units

Governance (in progress)
- Established by-laws with vision & mission statements
- Coming soon: a steering committee to advance goals & oversee subcommittees

Research Advancement & Development Professionals' Network (RADPN)

- **Mission: Provide professional development, training, and networking opportunities to research advancement and development professionals at the University of Minnesota**

- Began in 2016 as an OVPR-appointed group of 25, but continued as a voluntary staff network after a leadership shake-up.

- We drafted a mission and operating principles, then requested and received a charge from our VPR, along with $20,000/year for three years. (currently in Year 3/3)

- RADPN is led by a 7-member steering committee who plan activities and report to OVPR annually.

- "General membership" includes ~ 200 people who are part of a Google Group used for discussion and announcements. They have the opportunity to join topic-based working groups.

Research Advancement & Development Professionals' Network (RADPN)

- RADPN activities include:
  - Webinars and panel discussions – working with new faculty, using UMN reporting systems for RD functions, "fireside chat" about COVID-19 impacts on research

  - Conference scholarships for RD-related professional development

  - Red team reviews of interdisciplinary proposals

  - Annual half-day conference – so far, we've managed to host one

  - Working groups on research resources, communications, red team review process
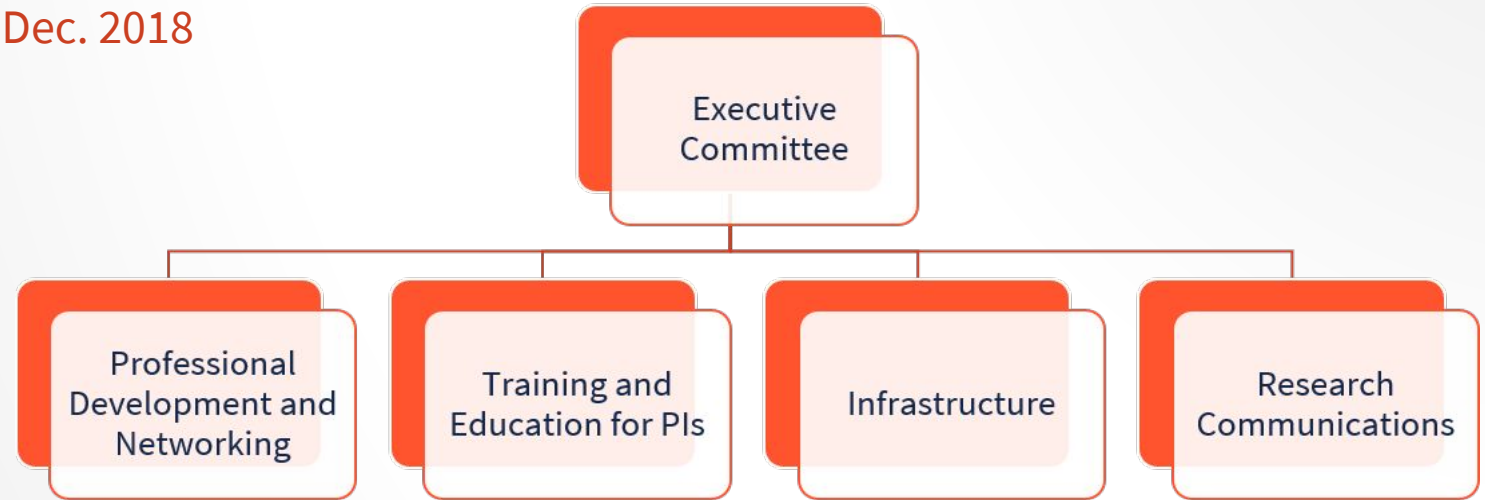
Illinois Research Development Community

Formed Oct. 2017 and officially launched Dec. 2018

120 members
- Inclusive membership
- Communication through Microsoft Teams and biannual newsletters

Supported by the Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation

Activities and Events
- Annual Research Development Day
- Pop-up networking lunches
- RD webinar series

Modest budget provided by the Office of Proposal Development, OVCRI, and others

Executive Committee
- Professional Development and Networking
- Training and Education for PIs
- Infrastructure
- Research Communications

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

UIC Research Development Network

- Open invitation to campus
- *Pro tempore* committee established structure & goals
- ~75 on email list
- No funding

GOALS
- Share knowledge
- Create teams
- Increase capacity for proposal development
- Improve quality of proposals

COMMITTEES
- Research Collaborations (16 people)
  - Mostly faculty and Associate Deans for Research
  - "Collaboration Classifieds"
  - Sharing priorities and needs of the Colleges
- Networking and Professional Development (4 people)
  - Networking events
  - Trainings
- Resource Library (7 people)
  - List of contacts
  - Document library

Launched and currently driven by effort from Office of Research Development within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

Office of Research Development

What has your network accomplished that wouldn't have happened without it?

What are the greatest challenges for you and your group?

What does the
future hold for your
networking group?

Questions?

Maggie Berg, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 meberg@illinois.edu

Ellen Freeman, University of Minnesota
 efreeman@umn.edu

Jill Jividen, University of Michigan
 jjgoff@umich.edu

Sarah O'Brien, University of Illinois at Chicago
 sobrie1@uic.edu