Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment – Starting 1
July 2010

1. Goal

To improve substantially OU’s ability to compete for external funding by providing assistance in the development of faculty research programs, in the development of all aspects of grant proposal content, in building greater awareness of funding opportunities and participation in the development of regional and national research agendas, and in articulating the goals of individual faculty and their research programs to potential funding sources.

2. Strategy

Develop a new Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment on the Norman Campus to assist OU faculty, research scientists, post docs and students in their efforts to build strong and competitive programs for research, scholarship and creative activities. The Center facilitates this effort by consulting with faculty and other investigators regarding their research ideas, helping to identify funding opportunities for research projects, assisting with the development of proposals for research funding, and identifying and leveraging University and other resources to strengthen research programs and projects.

3. Services

The CRPDE, which began operation on 1 July 2010 under the leadership of Dr. Alicia Knoedler, Norman Campus Assistant Vice President for Research, offers the following services:

- Research Program Planning (short term and long term)
- Discussion of research interests to request a search for relevant funding opportunities
- Funding solicitation analysis and review
- Timeline construction for proposal development
- Consultation on non-technical components of proposals
- Provision of boilerplate language and suggestions
- Proposal review and discussion
- Consultation on internal OU processes such as requests for cost sharing
- Initiative development
- Center-level activity development
- Workshops related to research and proposal development for faculty and students
- Availability of conferencing facilities and team-building space
- Advocacy and patience

4. Expected Benefits

CRPDE already has begun to show its value by virtue of engaging dozens of faculty in the development of extramural grant proposals, the enhancement of research programs, engagement in new opportunities, especially funding from private foundations, and fostering the development of resources to support postdocs and graduate students in their efforts to seek research funding. It is a transformative organization that will assist in moving OU’s research enterprise to the next level through stimulating the development of bold ideas, translating these ideas into viable research projects, broadening the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups, involving undergraduate students in the research enterprise, and promoting OU’s research enterprise to the broader community.

5. Relationship to Aspire 2020

Although the concept for CRPDE pre-dates the formal Aspire 2020 program, the new center directly supports the “Big Thinking” and “Proposal Development” components of Aspire 2020 Objective #1. It also internalizes all three of Aspire 2020’s objectives by increasing engagement in research, working to enhance the competitiveness of this research, and serving to change the culture for research at OU. CRPDE is perhaps the most important new administrative activity within OU’s research enterprise in the past several years and by all measures is being received with great enthusiasm by faculty and administrators.