Budget Neutral Research
Perspectives of a Former Undergraduate Educator
turned Staff Scientist

Presented by:
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My Background

- Former professor and chair of Biological Sciences at Cameron University
- Recipient of INBRE and EPSCoR research grants
- Summer research fellow at OMRF for 3 years
- Joined OMRF as a Staff Scientist in May 2016
About Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF)

- Nonprofit, independent biomedical research institute located in Oklahoma City across from the OUHSC campus
- Our research programs:
  - Aging & Metabolism
  - Arthritis & Clinical Immunology
  - Cardiovascular Biology
  - Cell Cycle & Cancer Biology
  - Functional & Chemical Genomics
Our Mission—Discoveries That Make a Difference

- Understand causes of disease
- Diagnose illness more accurately and earlier
- Create tools and knowledge to help manage disease
- Develop new and more effective treatments for illness
- Train young researchers

“...so that more may live longer, healthier lives”
Through the Years, OMRF Helped Me To Do Budget Neutral Research

- They donated research supplies and used equipment.
- They obtained an NIH grant supplement to support one of my students.
- They provided mentorship to me and other faculty.
- They provided seminar speakers.
- They hosted summer student interns and summer faculty fellows.
- They hosted class tours and allowed us access to core facilities.
What made this partnership possible?

- I knew someone on the inside who introduced me to OMRF researchers and resources.
- Being an INBRE researcher helped me to form partnerships with researchers at OUHSC, OMRF, and OSU.
- I learned to speak up and communicate need and my confidence was bolstered by the many times people said, “YES” when I asked for help.
- I cultivated my reputation and the reputation of my students and this created a pipeline for my students to gain entry into internships and jobs.
Do things differently……

- Your courses are funded so use them to do and teach research.
- Form cross-disciplinary research teams—no amount of participation is too small and everyone can bring something to the table!
- Leverage all of your institutional support—don’t leave money on the table.
- Be a Research MacGyver—You can do a lot of research with a creek, some media, and some research partners.
- Leverage all the support you can get from INBRE, EPSCoR, OSU, OU, and OMRF.
Prepare your students well...

- **Prepare students for success by:**
  - Inspiring curiosity
  - Modeling commitment and professionalism
  - Enhancing their math and communication skills

- **Form undergraduate research teams and teach students to mentor students**—you will get more bang for your buck and your time.

- **Don’t just encourage students to apply for summer research experiences**—help them with the application and teach them to read literature before they go.
We want your students for the Fleming Scholar Internship!

- An 8 week paid internship program where student researchers gain “hands-on” research experience by working on projects in state-of-the-art biomedical research laboratories.

- **Requirements:**
  - An Oklahoma resident at the time of high school graduation
  - At least 16 years of age
  - Classified as a high school senior or college freshman, sophomore, or junior at the time of application.
  - Willing and able to commit to the program’s entire 8-week time frame

Apply online by February 1st.