



Owl Research & Innovation Newsletter

Division of Research Initiatives to Support Growing Research Portfolio

Recently, the Division of Research launched several new initiatives to connect FAU researchers with our local communities and to serve faculty better from an administrative standpoint. We plan regular and more detailed updates to the research community in this and other newsletters. So, stay tuned. Here's the first report.

Feedback Workshops

Last fall, the division held several brainstorming sessions with faculty and staff to help identify DOR units' strengths, weaknesses and faculty needs. We held five workshops with faculty on four campuses, and workshops with department chairs, assistant vice presidents and the research leadership group.

From those workshops, each unit in the division came away with ideas to implement changes to achieve the ambitious goal to become the top research support team in the nation. Some of those ideas have already been implemented and/or are in the works. Others will take more time. But DOR has its to-do list that's based on the input from workshop attendees.

We're developing a website to provide more details and keep everyone abreast of our progress. It will be announced soon.

Constant Communication

In a new initiative that started in December, DOR unit leaders start each morning with a quick 20-minute "morning huddle" to discuss the day, potential challenges and how we can help each other address them and better serve faculty.

At the end of each day, DOR leaders submit highlights, achievements and hurdles overcome from the day and praise employees who go above and beyond to serve

faculty or colleagues. These submissions are turned into the DOR Daily email newsletter that is sent to division employees each morning.

As part of this effort, DOR also launched a new bi-weekly email newsletter working with each college's research deans to share information about research happenings within the colleges and FAU pillars.

We're Part of Your Team

DOR efforts also include blanketing the field to support new faculty as they start on their FAU research careers. A team of DOR representatives are visiting junior faculty members in their laboratory or office with the goals to learn more about them, their research, talk about funding opportunities and their needs. These are listening sessions where faculty get to tell us about what they need to be successful.

DOR provides the faculty members information on the spot or assigns an appropriate person to address any unanswered questions.

Jumpstarting Early Careers

The Office of Research Development recently kicked off its inaugural Early Career Academy for junior faculty. The ongoing workshops are designed to guide faculty down the path of success, include opportunities to interact with sponsors and for new travel awards to visit federal sponsors.

A Learning Café

DOR partnered with the FAU Libraries to hold **Research Café** at S.E. Wimberly Library on the Boca Raton campus. The café is a library-sponsored, cross-disciplinary networking event that gives researchers an opportunity to talk about their research to students, staff and faculty.

Research Highlighted

It's intended to get researchers from disparate disciplines talking and listening to each other to increase the possibility of cross-disciplinary research.

External Outreach

Last year, the division partnered with the Boca Raton Public Library to launch a new series of research discussions called **Research in Action**. The series was well attended with some lectures drawing 60, 80 and even more than 100 attendees. It continues in 2020 with a strong line-up of researchers sharing their work with the community.

For a complete list of upcoming talks, [click here](#).

This year, we're also launching new public outreach programs, including **Research Encounter**, an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute-sponsored research fair, that is slated for Feb. 12. The encounter will give the public an opportunity to interact with the future of innovation by exploring the research happening right in their backyard.

From robotic dogs to autonomous go-carts, the hands-on exhibits give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at how researchers at FAU are changing the world. [RSVP here](#).

In addition, DOR is planning a new traveling photo exhibit showing off the finalists and winners of the **Art of Science** photo contest that we held for the first time last fall. The exhibit shines a light on the unique, cutting-edge research happening in the FAU labs and in the field. The exhibit will open on Feb. 18 on the Boca Raton campus and the then display will move to the Boca Raton Public Library locations on Spanish River Boulevard and downtown in upcoming months. To RSVP to the opening, [click here](#).

There's also still time to vote for the **People's Choice** award, which will be selected from the finalists of the photo contest who didn't win. The people choice winner will be announced on photo exhibit opening night. Voting continues through midnight Feb. 14. [VOTE HERE](#).

