



# Office of Research Collaboration

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Annual Report  
July 1, 2007– June 30, 2008

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By  
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Director

**BGSU**  
Bowling Green State University

## Introduction

The Office of Research Collaboration (ORC) was started in 2004 as a partnership among Bowling Green State University (BGSU), the Medical University of Ohio (MUO)<sup>1</sup>, and The University of Toledo (UT), with the goal of establishing collaborations among researchers, practitioners, and the metropolitan community to develop new capabilities and work collaboratively to advance research in Northwest Ohio. An anticipated outcome of this partnership is a larger critical mass of academic talent and research tools to make Northwest Ohio competitive for major grant awards.

## Outcomes

The Office of Research Collaboration (ORC) was designed to deliver 4 outcomes:

1. Increased opportunities for faculty to share and engage in common research interests.
2. Reduced barriers to collaboration, improved efficiency, and increased grant and research productivity.
3. Increased faculty involvement in collaborative research and increased public recognition of the impact of research productivity and the importance of research.
4. Enhanced faculty skills and, ultimately, increased external funding and income to Northwest Ohio.

## Strategies Used to Achieve Outcomes

The Office of Research Collaboration aims to create a culture of collaboration by focusing on four strategies designed to achieve the aforementioned outcomes: *Bringing People Together*, *Building an Infrastructure*, *Developing Communication Avenues*, and *Educating and Mentoring Faculty*. Each strategy is supported by a committee of faculty members, composed of research active faculty from the three campuses.

Strategy 1: Bring People Together. These are networking opportunities designed to increase opportunities for faculty at BGSU and UT to share and engage in common research interests.

The committee supporting this strategy was chaired by Dr. Christopher Dunn from Bowling Green State University. The committee focused on identifying

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<sup>1</sup> The University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio merged on July 1, 2006. Therefore, the remainder of the report will refer only to Bowling Green State University and The University of Toledo.

networking opportunities that would enable faculty members to meet, socialize, and exchange information related to common research interests.

While the examples listed below are not all-inclusive, they represent an overview of some of the networking opportunities offered during the year. Research forums provided time for faculty to network among themselves after presentations. Additionally, each forum was followed up by the distribution to all participants of a directory of research interests among those who attended the forum.

- Post Traumatic Stress Research Forum. September 27, 2007
- Environmental Science Research Forum. October 23, 2007
- Ohio Valley Crystallography & Biophysics Symposium. November 9, 2007
- Literacy Research Forum. March 18, 2008
- Disease Prevention Forum. April 7, 2008
- Posters at the Capitol. April 17, 2008

There was an average of three networking events per semester. On average, the website has over 500 users per month. The faculty directory and expertise web links each receive over 30 new visitors a month. Finally, the research expertise database that was opened to all three campuses receives over 15 new visitors per month since installation.

Strategy 2: Building an Infrastructure. These are steps taken in an effort to reduce barriers to collaboration, improve efficiency, and increase grant and research productivity. Chaired by Dr. Michael Bisesi from The University of Toledo, this committee focused on graduate collaborative activities and efforts to promote the hire of grant writers for the universities. To date, we have over 195 instruments identified by name, model, year, description, and contact information in the Instrumentation Database. Of the over 6,000 web hits to the ORC web page during FY08, the instrumentation website was the third most utilized link (following the calendar of events and contact page).

Strategy 3: Developing Communication Avenues. These communication activities aim to increase faculty involvement in collaborative research and increase public recognition of the university's role in economic development, the effects of research productivity, and the importance of research.

During the FY08 year, the website (<http://collaboration.bgsu.utoledo.edu>) provided faculty researchers with many valuable resources. The website provides postings of upcoming events, a listing of our activities, links to collaborations (e.g., ORC boards, funded research projects at all three campuses, collaborative agreements, and collaborative degree programs), links to research (COS and IRIS) offices, and links to important resources located on

our three campuses. In FY08, a total of 6,798 visits were made to the website. There were 3,846 unique visitors, 3,343 first time visitors, and over 503 return visitors. Visitors used the announcement of events page the most frequently, followed by the contact us page, and the instrumentation links. The primary users of the website are UT and BGSU faculty members, but we receive a healthy number of visits from hospitals and clinics, other universities within the United States, universities internationally, school districts, a variety of state and county offices of administration, United States governmental agencies, and companies.

This fiscal year, the Collaborative Express newsletter was distributed six times to all faculty on the three campuses to announce important collaborative events and educate faculty about various collaborative topics (e.g., PI designations on collaborative proposals/awards, instrumentation agreement fees, or newly formed collaborative alliances). An archive of past newsletters is posted on our website.

To help with communication and create leadership that supports collaborative scholarly activity, external funding, and shared research, the ORC engaged in a number of activities. For example, the director meets quarterly with an Agenda Setting Advisory Board consisting of the Officers of Research Development and Research Administration and Directors of Sponsored Programs to discuss collaborative topics and issues. Additionally, a committee of over 30 research active faculty members meets throughout the academic year to plan the activities of the office and carry out the work of the committees.

Strategy 4: Educating and Mentoring Faculty. These activities are designed to enhance faculty skills and, ultimately, increase external funding, technology transfer, and income to Northwest Ohio.

The committee supporting this strategy was chaired by Dr. Gregory Stone from The University of Toledo. The committee focused on developing mentoring opportunities for faculty members. These included planning for the implementation of the “Faculty Learning Community Grant Writing Mentorship Program” focused on pairing faculty who have sought grants but have been unsuccessful with seasoned grant awardees. The purpose of this effort was to aid the faculty member in reworking his/her proposal to submit a strong proposal to the appropriate state or federal funding source. Three faculty members were selected to participate in the program and were paired with a mentor who worked closely with them to rework their proposal (see Table 1).

The ORC hosts a number of workshops aimed at mentoring faculty members about grant writing and research tools. On average, over 50 faculty members attends each workshop, with the grant writing workshops garnering over 70 participants each time. Evaluations of the workshops, completed by faculty members, are consistently high, and 10 faculty members who attended these

workshops also submitted a grant proposal this year. Example educating/mentoring events included:

- Federal Budget Process Meeting. September 6, 2007
- Meet the Researchers Informational Meetings. September 11, 2007
- Federal Budget Process Meeting. October 10, 2007
- NSF Early Career Panel. October 11, 2007
- Grant Writing Workshop. November 30, 2007
- Grant Writing Workshop. March 21, 2008

To illustrate the faculty response to the ORC educating and mentoring opportunities, Dr. Terry Bigioni comments on his own personal experience resulting from one of these educating and mentoring events. “Admittedly, I wasn't sure what to expect out of this mentorship program. In retrospect, it was fantastic. Irrespective of the outcome of the review, it was a great learning experience and has improved my grant writing skills. No question. In fact, you should consider broadening this program to mentor junior faculty through their first major independent grant proposal, not limited to the CAREER award. This sort of bootstrapping could make us all more successful, especially in this increasingly competitive funding climate.”

Table 2 provides information regarding the faculty who were selected as participants in the NSF Early Career Mentorship program. The purpose of this program was to encourage tenure-track faculty members at Bowling Green State University and The University of Toledo to apply for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program. The NSF CAREER program offers prestigious awards in support of the early career-development activities of teacher/scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.

### **Benchmark Data**

This past year (FY08), UT was awarded **\$8,285,627** in collaborative funding, which secured **\$1,135,180** in indirect funding. BGSU was awarded \$2,616,455 in collaborative funding, which secured \$314,947 in indirect funding. The ORC played a role in the process of identifying the Northwest Ohio Signature Collaborative Research Award; and if Rob Collins's award for \$8,038,462 were included the total, the collaborative funding level for FY08 would exceed \$16 million. However, an unsolicited email from Rob Collins thanking the ORC for its support is in Appendix A. Of the \$8,285,627 reported here for FY08, **\$2,111,067** would not have been obtained without the direct influence of Dr. Czerniak's planning, writing, and/or work to bring people together on the proposal.

An additional **\$6,223,556** in potential funding (pending proposals) could be added to the FY08 total, which would bring in an additional **\$1,472,844 to UT** in indirect monies. All of the potential funding listed in this report is directly associated to programming sponsored by the ORC, and does not include other potential collaborative grants pending at UT.

### **Budget FY 2008**

In FY 2008, the total ORC budget was \$195,000, which reflects a contribution by each campus in the amount of \$65,000. This investment pays primarily for salaries (½ time director, ½ time secretary, and graduate student) and covers materials and supplies, travel, and a small budget for sponsoring events and activities. After accounting for salaries, wages, fringe benefits and graduate student stipends/tuition, the ORC had \$20,566 for all FY08 operations including workshops, forums, symposia, Faculty Learning Community stipends, meeting expenses, travel costs, supplies/materials, office expenses, and communications. It should be noted that the ORC was never funded at the level that the 2003 Task Force on Research Collaboration, which initiated the genesis of the office, recommended.

### **Conclusions**

The number of collaborative grants awarded to UT has increased significantly since FY05 and collaboration between UT's Main Campus and Health Science Campus and BGSU has benefitted all.

Effective July 1, 2008, the ORC was merged into The University of Toledo Office of Research Development. This merger allows for the continuation of most ORC activities, with much of the focus to be placed on educating and mentoring faculty and staff on grant proposal writing and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration. As future opportunities arise, we will continue to collaborate with Bowling Green State University to secure grant or research funding.

**Table 1. FLC Grant Writing Mentorship Participants**

Name	Mentor Name	Proposal Submitted	Total \$	Indirects
AnChung Cheng	Leigh Chiarelott (University of Toledo Main Campus)	International Research & Studies Grant	\$418,920	\$31,031
		Maximizing the National Resource: Chinese as a Model for Heritage Language	\$481,920	\$31,031
Boyd Koffman	Dorothea Sawicki (University of Toledo HSC)	Pilot grant to National Multiple Sclerosis Society	\$40,000	\$4,000
		Medical Research Programs (DOD)	\$222,450	\$72,450
Lori Pakulski	Denise Wray (University of Akron)	Professional Training in Auditory-Based Education (P.T.A.E.) for Children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing	\$918,740	\$73,499

**Table 2. NSF Early Career Mentorship Program**

Name	Mentor name	Proposal Submitted	Total \$	Indirects
Terry Bigioni	Timothy Mueser	Uniform Thin Films and Coatings of Colloidal Material	\$600,000	\$250,000
Surya Nauli	Amanda Bryant-Friedrich	CAREER Generation and Characterization of Pkd2 Endothelial Cell Lines	\$500,000	\$220,000

Appendix A

Unsolicited Letter

**From:** Collins, Robert W.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008 7:23 PM  
**To:** Czerniak, Charlene M.  
**Subject:** RE: NW Ohio Collaborative Research

Charlene,  
Thanks... I know for sure that we received the UT Main, and BGSU components; I'm not sure about the UT Medical component. Colleen LaChapelle, PVIC's business manager was looking into it, but she's on holiday now so I'm not sure of the status. In any case, the seed funding was extremely productive in getting us (UT+BGSU) to work together.  
Rob

**From:** Czerniak, Charlene M.  
**Sent:** Wed 5/21/2008 7:25 PM  
**To:** Collins, Robert W.  
**Subject:** RE: NW Ohio Collaborative Research

Fantastic! Congratulations. By the way, did all three of our campuses finally come through with their \$300,000 signature research \$?

**From:** Collins, Robert W.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008 7:23 PM  
**To:** Czerniak, Charlene M.  
**Subject:** FW: NW Ohio Collaborative Research

Dear Charlene,

A collaborative research proposal by a UT/BGSU team to the Ohio Research Scholars Program entitled: "Northwest Ohio Innovators in Thin Film Photovoltaics"

was just funded in the amount of: \$8,038,462

I have attached the press release from the Ohio Board of Regents.

Sylvain Marsillac, Frank Calzonetti, and I were the primary coordinators of the proposal at UT and Phil Castellano and Deanne Snavely were the primary coordinators at BGSU.  
Rob

**From:** Collins, Robert W.  
**Sent:** Tue 5/20/2008 5:47 PM  
**To:** Amar, Jacques G.; Bigioni, Terry; Calzonetti, Frank; Compaan, Alvin D.; Deng, Xunming; Ellingson, Randy; F.Castellano; Heben, Michael; Khare, Sanjay; Marsillac, Sylvain; P.Anzenbacher; Reichert, Megan; Giolando, Dean M.; [normwj@aol.com](mailto:normwj@aol.com); [jwitte@advanced-dg.com](mailto:jwitte@advanced-dg.com); [David.Strickler@us.pilkington.com](mailto:David.Strickler@us.pilkington.com); [KenKormanyos@mcmasterenergy.com](mailto:KenKormanyos@mcmasterenergy.com); [blambert@garlandind.com](mailto:blambert@garlandind.com); [xu@mwoe.com](mailto:xu@mwoe.com); [fharris@akronpolysys.com](mailto:fharris@akronpolysys.com); [snavely@bgsu.edu](mailto:snavely@bgsu.edu); [tongth@crgpr.net](mailto:tongth@crgpr.net); [djflood@newcyte.com](mailto:djflood@newcyte.com)  
**Cc:** Morrissey, Marietta; Lee, Yueh-Ting; LaChapelle, Colleen; Gonzales, Pamela; Jacobs, Lloyd; Haggett, Rosemary

**Subject:** RE: Status: ORSP NW Ohio Innovators in Thin Film PV

To the ORSP Team!

I just stepped out of a research project review here in State College PA to find that ...

Our ORSP proposal was funded -- see attached Press Release.

This is great news!

Congratulations and many thanks to all participants! Without the hard work of all, this great opportunity would not be possible.

Rob Collins

Sylvain Marsillac