



TURAC 2024⁺

Connection • Collaboration • Cohesion

Navigating the Nexus:

Exploring the Intersections of Research Administration and Strategic Connections
across Arizona

April 16, 2024

Land Acknowledgement Statement

“Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona collectively acknowledge that the campuses are situated on the ancestral lands of twenty-two federally recognized tribes located across Arizona. These universities collectively honor the past, present, and future generations of Native Americans, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home. Committed to diversity, the institutions integrate Indigenous knowledge into their practices and strive to cultivate sustainable relationships with Native Nations through education, partnerships, and community service.”



Introductions



Heather Clark
Assistant Vice President,
Research Operations



Andrea Christelle, PhD
Vice Provost for Research



**Nicolette Teufel-Shone,
PhD**
Associate Director & Professor



Moderator, Valerie Keim
Research Operations Manager
Arizona State University



Heather Clark

Assistant Vice President - Research Operations

- Build, improve, and deploy research infrastructure to align with the requirements of the research enterprise.
- Provide leadership and operational oversight to the Office for Research and Sponsored Projects Administration, Research Compliance and other operational units.
- Collaborate with peers from prominent research institutions and national organizations to glean insights on effective methodologies, stay abreast of evolving regulations, and understand the evolving standards set forth by funding agencies.

What do you wish you had time to do for your organization?



Andrea Christelle, PhD

Vice Provost for Research

- **Advance Diné Identity in Research:** At Diné College, we prioritize Diné culture, traditions, and language. We support projects that incorporate Diné epistemologies and methods, bringing a unique perspective to the research community.
- **Develop and Enhance Research Initiatives:** *Na'alkaah Bee Honít'i'* – Research, Innovation & Practice has made significant progress since its inception nearly two years ago! We've established an office of sponsored projects to offer pre- and post-award services, provided faculty training, introduced a summer seed fund, and collaborated with deans to define research agendas.
- **Foster Collaborative Partnerships:** Cultivate partnerships with tribal, governmental, and academic entities to increase sponsored project activity that benefits Diné College and the Navajo Nation.

What do you wish you had time to do for your organization?



Nicolette Teufel-Shone, PhD

Professor of Public Health, NAU

- My appointment is research intensive; all my work involves collaboration with Native Nations throughout AZ to build public health workforce capacity or design program to improve chronic disease health outcomes
- Lead the **Center for Native American Cancer Health Equity**
- Co-lead the **Navajo Nation Native American Research Center for Health**, Dine' College is the lead institution

What do you wish you had time to do for your organization?

- Market faculty and students' skills to assist in building community capacity
- Contribute to a process for reviewing tribe-university joint ventures that considers the difference between tribe and university initiated collaborations



“Connection” focuses on and prioritizes the institutional connectivity we enjoy as ABOR and State of Arizona providers of higher education and research administration. Our schools and campuses are connected through shared values, shared visions, and complimentary missions. Our institutional connections provide support, affirmation, and confidence in our service and support strategies and directions.



Connection

Connection

What are some common challenges or barriers that research administrators and research initiatives encounter when fostering strategic connections?

How can these challenges or barriers be effectively addressed?



“Collaboration” focuses on the people and individual contributions from our work. Collaboration, and its strong influences, fosters individual effort that leads to a pathway of stronger collective efforts. These strong collective efforts nourish the working goals of each institution. Collaboration with each other is our accepted currency. Our incentive for action. Our workplace nutrition.



Collaboration

Collaboration

How do research administrators and researchers measure the success and impact of strategic partnerships?

What metrics/indicators are most meaningful in evaluating the effectiveness of connections?



Collaboration

What are some key considerations and challenges in establishing and maintaining ethical research practices when collaborating, for example with tribal communities?



Collaboration

How can research administrators and principal investigators effectively advocate for the interests and needs of their institutions or research programs when engaging in strategic partnerships?



“Cohesion”, as our aspiration, helps describe how well our institutions of higher education in Arizona co-exist, co-execute, and co-celebrate our achievements. High levels of cohesion ensure that our work approaches are integrated, synergistic, and complementary. Cohesion is our collective “getting-along-ness”. Cohesion helps ensure respect and fairness in our actions.



Cohesion

Cohesion

How can research administrators and faculty effectively facilitate partnerships between academic institutions, tribal nations, state and local entities to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes?



Cohesion

Looking ahead, what emerging trends or developments do you anticipate will shape the future of research administration and cohesive strategic connections?



Thank You!

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