Building a Strong Relationship with the Graduate School at Your Institution

McNair Promising Practices Institute
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Presentation Outline:

- Overview of UF
- Graduate School
- McNair Program
- Laying the Foundation
- Our Partnership
- Takeaways
Who Are We?

50,000+ Students

4,000+ Faculty

400,000+ Alumni Worldwide

16 Colleges

150+ Centers & Institutes

$1.65b Endowment

Breadth & Scope

April 2018
Undergraduate Enrollment

33,697 (fall 2017)

22% First-Generation

10,837 Pell Grant Recipients

*Two or more races, nonresident alien, unknown*
The Graduate School

- Became a unit in 2007
- Operates on a decentralized model
- Serves 12,000 graduate students pursuing master’s, specialist, and doctoral degrees in more than 150 fields of study
- Responsible for oversight of graduate education university-wide, and standards & policies governing all graduate programs
Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives
Funding and Programs:

- LSAMP-Bridge to the Doctorate (NSF)
- UF/SFC Faculty Development Project
- McKnight Doctoral Fellowship
- Auzenne Dissertation Award
- Supplemental Tuition Award
- Graduate School Doctoral Research Travel Award
- OGMP PhD Travel Support
- Board of Education Summer Fellowship
McNair at UF

- Funded since 1995
- Originally housed in the Graduate School
- Relocated to Undergraduate Affairs in 2009
- Serves 25 UF juniors & seniors
  - Juniors can apply to continue during senior year
- All majors with an emphasis on STEM (60%)
Laying the Foundation

- Designated McNair Advisory Council position for a Graduate School rep fostered an ongoing connection
- Retirement of Asst. Dean of the Graduate School led to a vacancy
  - Decided that a rep from OGD1 would be the best fit for the council
- Hiring of new staff in OGD1 necessitated being intentional about onboarding and relationship building
- Extended an invitation to present at the first UF McNair Graduate Admissions Boot Camp
- Opened the door to future collaborations
Our Partnership

The Graduate School
- Serve on Advisory Council
- Assist with selecting scholars
- Conduct workshops during summer & academic year
- Provide feedback on resumes & personal statements
- Help identify potential McNair Peer Advisors
- Provide special award for exemplary McNair Scholars
- Offer assistantships & other opportunities for McNair Scholars
- Give insight into student needs
- Additional resource for students

McNair Scholars Program
- Identify students who want to continue graduate studies at UF
- Assist with recruiting efforts
- Share opportunities with the McNair community
- Help educate graduate coordinators about McNair
- Assist with selection of special graduate student awards
- Collaborate on special initiatives, e.g. 3 Minute Thesis, Smart Cents grant, etc.
Key Outcomes

Sharing Resources
Accomplish more through collaboration than we could individually (small staff, limited budget)

Building Community
Facilitates relationships between McNair Scholars, graduate students, & the Graduate School staff

Supplemental Support
Encourages McNair Scholars to perform at a high level vs. just going through the program

Everyone Wins
Takeaways

● It takes a village to raise a Ph.D.
● Work smarter, not harder
● Build strong relationships with the Graduate School & other campus partners to stretch your resources
  ○ Identify offices/programs with related goals/services on your campus (e.g. Center for Undergraduate Research, etc.)
● Partnerships create advocacy for your students & your program
● Relationships take time & effort
  ○ Set a recurring meeting with your Graduate School contact
  ○ Invite them to social activities, not just workshops
● Give, don’t just take
  ○ Offer your expertise/time/resources
● If you don’t have one, establish an advisory council for your program and be strategic in selecting representatives
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