RESEARCH STRATEGIES
Doing Research at a Teaching-focused School

• How is research defined?

• How do I stay involved in the research community?

• How do you start working with others?

• How do I fund my research?
HOW IS RESEARCH DEFINED?
What Does Research Mean?

• Primary research area
  – Not involving your Ph.D. advisor
  – Not on your Ph.D. work
• Interdisciplinary research
  – Is your contribution just application of knowledge or new contribution?
• Pedagogical research
  – Create a study with quantifiable results
  – Present outcome of using approach in courses
  – Create new tool or artifact for course
• Student research involvement
Don’t Assume. Ask What is Valued.

• Ask early and ask often!
  – Department chair
  – Department colleagues
  – Dean
  – Tenure and promotion committee members
• Choose valued options
Create a Small Mix of Projects

- Keep one solo project
- Create a collaboration with a researcher in your field
- Create an interdisciplinary project with someone at your school
HOW DO YOU STAY INVOLVED IN THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY?
Get Out in the World!

• Attend one major conference per year
  – Reconnect with existing work friends
  – Identify 5 people you want to meet
    • Prep by reading papers and preparing questions
• Serve on a PC or grant review panel
  – Have friends or advisor suggest you
  – Go in person
• Have students present research posters
  – Create students people want
• **Always** have an elevator talk prepared
Be Careful with Service

• You will not get tenure for doing a lot of service
• But, you may connect with a potential research collaborator via a service opportunity
• Be very judicious
  – Learn how and when to say “No”
Remember to Read

- Shoot for reading or skimming one paper a week
- Learn how to read papers effectively and efficiently
HOW DO YOU START WORKING WITH OTHERS?
How Do You Start Peer Collaborations?

• How do you come up with an idea to work on?
  – Think about how you would extend some existing work
  – Do you have a valuable skill or viewpoint to offer?

• How do you make it happen?
  – Start with a specific problem or paper idea
  – Reach out to people at conferences
    • Choose people you like
How Do You Successfully Collaborate?

• Go to the other researcher’s location to get things started
• Have a student work on the project
  – Co-advise a graduate student
  – Have your student do a summer internship at their location
• Communicate regularly
• Set concrete goals
How Do You Successfully Collaborate With Students?

• Find the right students and the right number
  – Ask strong students in your classes
  – Ask colleagues for student suggestions
• Start student on a trial basis to evaluate
  – Do you communicate well?
  – Is the student invested enough?
  – Is the student skilled enough?
• Ways to get started
  – Course credit during semester
  – Paid research during semester
  – Paid summer research
• Provide lots of organization and explanation of research process
HOW DO YOU FUND YOUR RESEARCH?
Some Practical Tips for Funding

• Find out about university funds
  – Startup funds
  – Travel and research grants
  – Fellowships
• Ask colleagues how they got funding and how much
  – Ask them for their successful proposals
  – Ask them to read your proposals drafts for feedback
• Talk to folks in your grants office
• Call your program officers and ask questions
Funding Handout

• NSF
  – Career
  – REU
  – RUI
  – ROA
• DARPA
• DOE

• L’Oreal
• AAUW
• Google Research
• Packard Foundation
• Sloan
QUESTIONS?