

CSUN PREM Institutional Support

- Details of your institutional support.
- How do you get such support (what arguments do you use to convince your administration)?
- How the level of your institutional support correlates with the visibility of PREM on your campus?



A Few Important Points/Background Info

- Very much a personal perspective – cannot/do not speak for everyone.
- At CSUN, PREM is **almost** synonymous to research excellence; supporting the PREM program is “equivalent” to support research excellence – like a “poster child” of research on campus.
- The materials research group gained reputation/status over the time (~15 years) – it didn’t happen overnight.
- We are extremely lucky; rare visionary leadership – this is the key!
Strong support from President, Provost, AVP for Research, Dean and Chair
- Also successful to generate external support (\$1.5 - 2 million/year of external grants); bring prestige to the university. Have demonstrated the internal support and investment is justified and with good returns.



External Funding: \$1.5 – 2 million annually

- NSF (PREM, Solar Energy Initiative, Energy Research Center, RUI, etc.)
- DoD-MURI
- ONR
- AFOSR
- DoD HBCU/MI
- DOE Core, DOE-SciDAC
- NIH
- DTRA
- National Reconnaissance Office
- Intel
- Sivananthan Labs
- Epirsensors

Collaborations

Princeton, Harvard, UCSB, UCLA, USC, Brown, U. Alabama, EPFL, Tsinghua U, Hong Kong U. Sci. Tech.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Naval Research Laboratory
Argonne National Lab, Los Alamos Natl. Lab, Intel, EPIRSENSORS



University Support

- 50% reassigned time for faculty (Department, College, Provost)
- Space infrastructure (\$500K - renovation of 5,000 square feet for W. M. Keck CMTC and other office/lab spaces)
- Provided a computer system administrator; an electronics technician
- \$300 to \$600K start-up funds provided for recent hires in experimental condensed matter physics
- Received matching funds of \$500K for the present PREM
- Established a university-wide Center on Materials Research with a budget of \$250K/year (for four years initially)
- Several PREM faculty members received early tenure and promotion
- Various forms of support provided to individual faculty for supporting students, equipment, travel, etc.
- Salary incentive policies in place (e.g., a certain percentage of salary increase as bonus if one brings 500K/year in grants)

How do you get such support?

- We have a very supportive leadership; we didn't really need to do much convincing!
- We talked to the administrators if need support; more often than not, they said YES! – don't be shy and assume they would say yes.
- We wrote small proposals to the administrators.
- We invited our (new) President to visit us (gave a talk about the Center and asked her for advice; finally told her we needed more support to continue the success, ...)
- We keep the Provost/Dean updated for any major success (large grants, awards, etc.); they're fully aware of our success
- Whenever we got positive feedbacks from the NSF directors (**Thank you, Sean!**) or the NSF review panels, we let the administrators know the good news (they have a high respect of NSF).
- We worked very hard to win external grants to ensure that their support is generating returns.
- Track record speaks for itself; they are not convinced by our words, but our track records

How the level of your institutional support correlates with the visibility of PREM on your campus?

- PREM is just one of many grants we got; the visibility of materials research is more prominent than the PREM program itself.
- As alluded to earlier, there is certainly a positive correlation between the level of support and the visibility of materials research on campus. There is a positive feedback loop (more support -> more success -> more visibility -> even more support).
- University support is for people, not for a given project or grant. Grants can come and go, but people stay. It is wise for the university to support an excellent group of people continuously (even if PREM is not longer there) because they can always generate funding from elsewhere.

Thank you!