

Developing a Long Term Research Agenda

**Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network
HBCU-UP Leadership Development Institute
Karen D. King, PhD
Karen.d.king@nyu.edu**

What is a Research Agenda?

- Not a research project
- Specific line of research
 - Goal directed
 - Each piece of research builds on prior work
 - Long-term focus with short-term goals
- Exercise – In one sentence, write down your long term research agenda. In a second sentence, describe why it is important

Need for Guideposts

- Once you have a long-term agenda, you have to have short term guideposts to measure your progress
- Distinguishing characteristics in tension in a research and/or development projects:
 - Focused vs. Extended
 - Novel vs. Grounded
 - Feasible vs. Challenging
 - Near-Term Results vs. Long-Term Prospects

Develop Guideposts

- Exercise - Given your long-term research agenda, over the next five years, what could be the next two or three research and/or development projects you should pursue? How will these projects advance your research agenda?
 - Note these are speculative in that the second project may be very dependent on what you find in the first project

Project Planning

- Start from your research and development idea or question and where you want to be at the end, then fill in the middle
 - What do we already know on this topic? What has already been developed and tested?
 - What resources are at your disposal – people, facilities, equipment, supplies? What resources do you need?
 - What are your goals for the project when you are done?
- Writing in one paragraph – what is the argument you would make for a paper based on this research and/or development idea? What do you want to be able to say when this part of the project is complete? What if your hypothesis is wrong? What will you be able to say if things do not turn out as you expected?

Measuring Your Progress

- The guideposts allow you to measure your progress.
- Develop your first three projects to last about 5 years (the number of projects will depend on your field)
- At the end of the first project, you should have at least 2 publishable papers from the project
- Reassess the plans for the second project in light of the results from the first project
- Reassess your research agenda in light of changes in your field every five years or when significant new results emerge



QUESTIONS?