(LaRosa 2023)

LaRosa, Jana. 2023. “Interdisciplinary Research Accelerator.” Draft. Boise.

The Interdisciplinary Research Accelerator (IRA) training is a multifaceted program designed to augment the research capabilities of interdisciplinary teams at Boise State.

This training encompasses three core engagement activities: Strategic Visioning, Team Science Training, and Faculty Research Leadership.

Strategic Visioning, or Strategic Development and Road Mapping, was orchestrated by The Implementation Group (TIG). This initial phase of the IRA program aimed to assist teams in articulating a coherent vision, mission, goals, and objectives. It incorporated a consultative process beginning with surveys and interviews tailored to elucidate the individual and collective aspirations, challenges, and potential growth areas for team members. The subsequent analysis of these interactions informed the strategic planning process, aligning the individual objectives of team members with their collective goals.

Faculty Research Leadership, conducted by the CRCA, focused on enhancing research leadership skills across the experience spectrum of Boise State faculty. This training sought to foster effective research collaboration and an inclusive culture of innovation and discovery. Two primary activities, Capacity Building and Strategy, comprised this training segment. Capacity Building was an exercise in network and partnership development, encouraging faculty to forge interdisciplinary connections, spot research opportunities, and engage effectively in the grant proposal process. Strategy sessions were consultative and aimed at refining the faculty's approach to research proposal development and strategic project planning.

Divergent Science, facilitated by external consultants Hannah Love and Ellen Fisher, offered six specialized activities tailored to the needs of the GCs teams or administrators. This training covered crucial aspects of team functionality, such as role clarity, project management, followership, communication, and decision-making, aiming to empower teams to tackle complex research problems effectively. Each activity was designed not only to address the practicalities of team dynamics and administration but also to instill values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The IRA teams received a financial endowment (\$25,000) to develop their respective research network, coupled with comprehensive access to the IRA training program. This combination of financial support and tailored training aimed to create a robust foundation for emerging research centers, each with a distinct thematic focus, facilitating their trajectory toward becoming innovative research hubs within BSU.

This internal document outlines a model designed to support and accelerate interdisciplinary research and development through leadership training, team planning and team science training.

The current development and award model assists individuals and teams in completing projects. The new proposed model will empower research teams to know what they need at each stage in an actionable way.

Divergent Science consultants train pilot teams and CRCA staff for one academic year.

Pilot teams and CRCA staff are to teach what they learn to their peers.

Members of successful teams will mentor future cohorts.

CRCA provides space for training in the CID collaboration space.

Leadership will mentor the next generation of senior investigators.

The accelerator model includes a series of training modules.

“Proposed Engagement” is the title of the training modules.

GCs teams attend training that covers team science and strategic visioning.

“Strategic Visioning” is a session intended for newly developed GC teams of researchers aimed at crafting the team’s vision, mission, goals, and objectives. Teams work to identify how different areas of expertise will meet in innovation.

“Team Science Training” is a two-part session designed for GC teams that uses science of team science (SciTS) literature and includes training in project management and Followership (team member support).

GC team leads attend training that covers conflict styles, project management, and followership training.

“Faculty Research Leadership” is a two-part module for all levels of experienced research faculty to develop skills that promote effective research team collaboration, including an authentic culture of inclusion in innovation and discovery.

“Touch Points” is a monthly meeting with consultants for GCs team leads and relevant team members.