Overview of Centers and Institutes at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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November 19, 2009
Why Centers and Institutes?

• Expands university boundaries by fostering collaborations with government, industry and organizations to enhance economic growth and the quality of life locally, nationally and globally

• Affords organizational flexibility and responsiveness to issues
Why Centers and Institutes?

- Serves as an important organizational focus for attracting research funding from federal, state, and industrial sponsors and inquiries from community stakeholders
- Increases both knowledge generation and knowledge transmission
- Facilitates collaboration in research
- Increases research resources as funding agencies increasingly look for interdisciplinary approaches
“Big science changes things. The older style of a PI with a couple of R01’s doing a particular project over a 20-year period is gone, or at least going, because of the technology needed to be competitive. No individual lab can possibly muster the tremendous resources, both in terms of expertise and in terms of equipment [to be competitive].”

Associate Dean of Research at a Top-20 Research-Intensive Medical School (Tash, 2008)
Why Centers and Institutes?

- Embraces the multidisciplinary nature of scholarship and research within the university
- Aids in faculty recruitment and retention
- Offers a sense of community and promotes continued learning and an opportunity for students and faculty to develop collaborative and team building skills
Centers and Institutes at UNCG

• Encourages innovative scholarship, providing service to society and strengthens UNCG’s performance as a high research activity and engaged university (Carnegie Foundation Classifications)

• Contributes approximately 25% of all UNCG research awards
Centers and Institutes at UNCG

• Some operate within an individual department; others within a School or College, and some are University-wide
• Some promote a primarily research-focused agenda, while others focus on instruction and/or community service
• As such Centers vary in size, focus and mission
Center/Institute Effectiveness

- Permission to Plan process provides opportunity to examine need, reduce duplication, and examine sustainability
- After establishment, all Centers reviewed at least every 5 years or as needed
- Newly established UNCG internal initiative to examine Centers, Institutes and Research Networks across common issues of communication, infrastructure support, and accountability
Center for Social, Community and Health Research and Evaluation (CSCHRE)

Purpose:

• To conduct applied evaluation and research in health and human services and to incorporate academic and community-based personnel in education, service, and evaluation activities

• To allow UNCG and community, institution, state, national and international partners to meet their accountability goals and objectives and to increase their capacity to serve their constituencies
Why CSCHRE?

• Addresses the increasing demand by local, state, national, and international stakeholders for this type of research and evaluation

• Addresses the critical need for methodologists and evaluators in order to be competitive for large, federal funding grants thereby eliminating the need for UNCG faculty, programs, and Centers to go outside UNCG for this expertise thus keeping valuable grant dollars and resources within UNCG
Why CSCHRE?

• Provides a mechanism to house a critical mass of expertise in applied evaluation and research in the areas of health and human services that does not currently exist at UNCG

• Creates a more visible portal not only for UNCG partners but also for external stakeholders thereby increasing UNCG’s visibility in both research and community engagement

• Provides a mechanism to meet several of the goals of the new UNCG strategic plan and UNC Tomorrow
How will CSCHRE meet its mission?

• By working collaboratively with personnel, units, departments, investigators, other UNCG Centers and agencies on data collection and analysis efforts

• By providing assistance to outside agencies and programs on grant writing and/or grant development and logistical and problem-solving activities
How will CSCHRE meet its mission?

- By providing in-service education and training on assessment methods for personnel in programs and projects at the federal, state and local levels.
- By recruiting and training pre- and post-doctoral students and faculty and supporting scholarship and research.
How will CSCHRE meet its mission?

• By publishing scholarly articles and monographs and collaborating with partners, other UNCG Centers, local, state and federal agencies in the development, implementation, and assessment of projects

• By securing external funding through local, state, and federal sources
How will success be measured?

• Increase in the number of requests for collaboration on diverse projects from within and outside UNCG

• Increase in the number and quality of proposals submitted, “hit rate”, and amount of funding from government and other resources
How will success be measured?

• Increase in training and education of faculty and students in this type of evaluation and research

• Increase in scholarship as evidenced by publications, technical reports, scientific presentations and other print and visual media

• Improvement as measured by the UNCG institutional effectiveness process
Where will the Center be housed organizationally?

Office of the Chancellor

Office of the Provost

Office of Research and Economic Development

**Center for Social, Community and Health Research and Evaluation**

Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships

Center for Research Excellence in Nanobiosciences

NC Center for Entrepreneurship

Center for Biotechnology, Genomics and Health Research