



FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP
Redefining the Government & University Research Partnership

September 2021 FDP Meeting (Faculty Forum)

Federal Engagement Working Group (FEWG)

Maria Koszalka, National Science Foundation, Co-Chair

Jim Luther, Duke University, Co-Chair

Julie Thatcher, Project Manager

Tuesday, September 21, 2021



Federal Engagement Working Group (FEWG) Phase 1 – Planning Recommendations

FEWG Members: *Jim Luther*, Duke University, Co-Chair

Maria Koszalka, National Science Foundation, Co-Chair

Susan Sloan, Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable

Jerry Cohen, University of Minnesota, Faculty Representative

Susan Anderson, College of Charleston, Administrative Representative

Cindy Hope, Georgia Institute of Technology, Administrative Representative

Julie Thatcher, Institute for Systems Biology, Project Manager

Federal Consultants: Maria Koszalka, National Science Foundation

Debbie Rafi, Office of Naval Research

Michelle Bulls & Kristin Ta, National Institutes of Health



FEWG: Background

FYI

- No clear process for targeting, recruiting, engaging, and sustaining federal partnerships.
- Federal agency participation has become increasingly inconsistent over the past several years
- 2018 Federal Summit: in part to reengage federal partners, which resulted in essential guidance for incentivizing and enhancing the value in federal participation.
- Phase VII planning process, in which Federal Engagement was identified as a key priority.



FEWG: Description

FYI

During Phase 1, the **primary goal is to create guidelines and processes** for thoughtful, strategic FDP mission-enhancing federal recruitment, onboarding and sustainable engagement. Specifically, the FEWG plans to:

- Define levels of federal participation (attend, update, working groups, co-chair)
- Develop guidance to identify appropriate and effective engagement at the agency level
- Develop guidance to identify appropriate and effective engagement for individuals within an agency
- Develop guidance for strategic federal recruitment
- Develop process to on-board federal participants (both agency and individual)
- Develop mechanisms to sustain engagement throughout Phase VII
- Draft FEWG Phase 2: Implementation
- Consider federal agencies and/or individuals to pilot new guidance



FEWG: Federal Consultant Feedback

Considerations & Challenges:

- FDP is larger and more complex than at its inception. Used to work with consistent key players.
- Number of admin reps has grown exponentially and federal resources remain limited.
- Each agency has internal mandates, priorities and budget, so prioritizing FDP participation is difficult.
- Agencies experience internal evolution of systems, processes, etc. and may be focusing within.



FEWG: Federal Consultant Feedback

Suggestions:

- Be strategic about engagement because **time and attention are limited resources.**
- Solicit agencies for their “**current topics**” rather than from an FDP organizational framework to maximize agency investment and garner participation approval.
- Ensure that broad **agency input is solicited early and often;** consider when and how to deploy demonstrations



FEWG: Phase 1 *DRAFT* Recommendations

1. Create **Federal Liaisons** that check in at least quarterly to solicit federal needs, initiatives, concerns, etc.
2. Seek opportunities to create **“pop-up” listening groups** for any current Fed initiatives
3. Provide **Agency Update Templates** and create Agency **Webpage(s)**
4. **Consider levels** of Federal Engagement (e.g. “Member” vs “Affiliate” or “Visitor”)
5. **Continue to evaluate opportunities** to seek meaningful engagement, including working groups, committee participation, formal demonstrations, etc.



FEWG: Next Steps

FYI

- Continue vetting with agency partners, as needed
- Present and discuss with Faculty Group(s)
- Present highlights/plan at September 2021 FDP Meeting
- Develop Phase 2 Implementation Plan
- Execute





Federal Perspective

- Federal Perspective on the critical role that faculty play in FDP
 - Maria



Open Discussion

- 1) Thoughts/reaction to above? What are we missing?
- 2) What is the most important recommendation to you?
- 3) What do faculty believe has been the most impactful project to them that has come out of FDP?
- 4) What type of context or background information do faculty need to understand the constraints and environment in which federal agencies operate?
- 5) What communication mechanisms are most effective for reaching faculty?
- 6) What agency best practices are there related to working with proposals and PIs?