When to do collaborative research?

* Need expertise of others
* Campus magic can be created
* To meet the need of the community. Someone needs your expertise.
* It can provide mentoring opportunities.
* Reciprocal relationships can be developed.
* It can become an economic necessity. Collaboration can lead to time and resource sharing.
* It can lead to mutual accountability.

When to NOT do collaborative research?

* When it is not efficient
* The topic can be too narrow
* When there is a need to develop your own professional identity
* When there is no interest in the project
* When it takes away from the mission of the institution
* When it is forced only for the sake of collaboration for the sake of collaboration
* Must consider the potential outlets for the finished projects
* The collaboration may take on a life of its own and lose the original focus
* There is an institutional mindset against collaboration

Why do collaborative research?

* Exchange of ideas
* JOY
* Mutual discovery
* It is more relatable and understandable to outsiders
* It provides comfort and a space to learn from others
* Modeling what we want our own students to do
* Encourage more collaboration
* Add to the richness of the professional discussion
* Collaborate with people at other universities. This can boost a career or reputation.
* Work with people in areas which have not been explored. There may be research gaps in the spaces between collaborators.
* It looks good.
* Can be efficient
* A way of seeing is also a way of not seeing. Working helps to remove our blinders
* Diversity of approaches. There are some areas that have not been examined.
* A better end product

How do you do collaborative research?

* Use the PI database
* More structured events like this one to showcase research. Even using things like HLC committees to find out what people do.
* Keep track of department research. This can be done through departmental meetings where people are just asked to identify current research projects.
* Writing groups and writing workshops.
* Establish departmental and college goals
* Provide more professional development seminars.
* Faculty brownbags where faculty present research of interest across disciplines.

What are current practices?

* Establishment of goals in departments.
* Dean’s challenge grants requiring interdisciplinary research. It needed to be at least three different disciplines
* Learning new technology in a joint environment
* Carver grants on technology
* Committee work at the university level

More ideas:

* Attend national conferences in and out of your discipline
* Attend community meetings
* Cornerstone and Sustainability Institutes
* Faculty brown bags within a department

Sustaining Ides:

* Setting goals and being honest, etc.
* KUDOS for the entire university community.
* Maintaining a professional collaborative relationship and understanding it will change
* Sit down and think about how things have changed over time and negotiate the changes
* Face to face contact is important. Proximity is important. Informal time is important.
* Integrating it into teaching makes it more of a necessity