Getting Off to a Smart Start at Purdue

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My Concerns

- Did my advisor tell me everything that I needed to know?
- How do you teach a class of 400 first-year students? Is it that much different from teaching a small group of students?
- What do I do if my graduate student and I don’t get along?
- How do I find a graduate student to work with me?
- Do I really know what I’m doing?
- Does it really snow that much here?
- Do I have the right car to drive in the snow?
- Do I have the right shoes to walk in the snow?
- Where do I get my hair done?
- Will my husband like it here?
- Will we find friends who have similar interests?
- What is there to do in Indiana?
Strategy is Key

• Create a short-term and long-term plan for your research, teaching, and service.
  – Yearly goal? Necessary resources?
  – How can you leverage your current resources (i.e., start-up funds, contacts)?

• Identify strategic relationships regardless of disciplinary boundaries.

• Find partnerships outside of Purdue.

• Evaluate and revise your research ideas.

• Identify alignment between your ideas and significant local, national, and international initiatives
Create Your Enterprise

- Managers
- Inventors
- Leaders
- Course Developers
- Authors
- Grant Writers
- Administrators
- CEOs of Your Own Intellectual Enterprise

- Make your academic enterprise what YOU want it to be.
- Create a web presence for student recruitment and a name for your group or laboratory. Look for the winning members to join your team.
- Identify collaborations that are ideal for you and will advance your enterprise. (Some collaborations will be needed for the future!)
Assessment is a never-ending journey.

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More Than a Professor
Teaching Advice: (3 P’s)

• Do not be a control freak. Delegate!
• Identify creative ways to engage students and to assess them.
• Make notes/lesson plans so that you do not have to replicate efforts in the future. At the end of the term, reflect on what went well, and what did not go well.
• Engage in the scholarship of teaching (Boyer). Publications about your teaching efforts can count toward promotion and tenure.
Mentoring

• Compatible
• Honest
• Responsive
• Constructive
• Sincere
• Available
• “Bad day” Buddies
When the Unexpected Happens…

• Communicate pertinent information to your Department Chair, colleagues, and students so that others can make adjustments.
• Identify necessary resources and policies that apply to your situation.
• Recognize your limitations, and take care of yourself.
• Pause, and reflect upon how you will move forward in your life.
Keep Dreaming

• Make lemons out of lemonade.
• Find what works for you.
• Embrace who you are, and bring your unique perspective to Purdue.
• Try new activities that encourage your lifelong personal and professional activities.
Reflection

What is your greatest concern about being a new faculty member at Purdue?