Innovation Grant Shifts Culture Towards More Shared Research Equipment in Three Research Departments

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Inspiration for starting innovation grant

• The Book *Creativity, Inc.* – inspired the creation of an innovation program for staff
• Tap into the creativity and innovation and to specifically provide avenues for staff to bring forward the ideas
• Create new avenues for collaboration
Examples of projects funded

- Drones to assess condition of rooftops
- Environmentally friendly custodial supplies
- Kubi robots to allow students to attend classes remotely
- Impact scholarship
- BioCore
Our 1 year Innovation Buffs Experiment

Shifting Culture To More Shared Lab Equipment in Collaborative Spaces in MCDB, EBIO, and IPHY

Funding $

Equipment Manager

Assess Underutilized Equipment in Ramaley & Gold/Porter

Shared Facilities

Recirculate

Dispose
Innovation Grant Results in BioCore

- 85 shared instruments (valued at ~$625,000)
- 60 researchers in 3 depts.
- 2115 sq. ft. lab space freed
- $221,000 in avoided equipment purchases
- $34,000 cost avoidance per new faculty start-up
- 4,000+ instruments tracked
BioCore Financial Structure

All resources are free to use
• Equipment is ‘donated’ to the BioCore
• Users agree to terms
• Equipment repair/replacement split amongst users

Future directions
• Secure permanent funding
• Repeat or expand into additional departments

I agree to...
1. Share repair costs proportional to my lab’s usage
2. Gross negligence will be charged my lab
3. Each user from my lab receives proper training

Signed _________________________________
Benefits of Managed Shared Research Equipment

- Increased research capability
- Compliance & audits
- Saving time, start faster
- Avoiding duplicate equipment
- Strategic start-up fund use
- Access to expertise
- Staying on cutting edge of tech
- Energy efficiency & resiliency
- Better space use & less expansion
- Attracts talent, recruiting
- Aids grants & external users
- Academics & interdisciplinary research

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Managed, Shared Equipment - a Focus of Green Labs

Large impact for efficiency & benefits to science

Resources (colorado.edu/ecenter/greenlabs)
- Biochem Cell Culture Facility Case Study
- BioCore Report
- 15 reasons to enhance managed shared equipment resources
- Posters (under outreach materials)
Direction that CU Boulder is Headed-Campus Visioning Efforts

Financial Futures
• In progress: hiring a Director of Cores

Strategic Facilities Visioning
• Facilities tool applies a space efficiency factor to lab spaces based on migration towards more shared research spaces

Academic Futures
• Interdisciplinary education and research

“The availability of shared facilities strongly influenced my decision to join CU-Boulder. Such facilities help new research labs stretch their resources (i.e., avoid the purchase of large equipment) and expand their focus beyond the confines of traditional disciplines...The shared facilities were instrumental in my lab's ability to attract a diverse set of graduate students and to collect preliminary data for a diverse set of grant applications.”

– Assistant Professor, Chemical & Biological Engineering
Future Ideas to Explore

1. Sharing incentive when purchasing equipment
   • Funding based on efficiency in space utilization

2. Laying the foundation for a sharing culture
   • Prospective faculty interview questions
   • Offer letter language
   • Start-up package structure
   • New faculty orientation
Questions?