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Demystifying the Academic Research Enterprise

Becoming a Successful Scholar in a Complex and Competitive Environment

By: Kelvin K. Droegemeier

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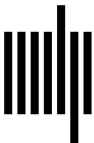
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Foreword

We are indeed at a pivotal moment as a nation as we chart a bold future toward accelerating our progress in science and technology to ensure a vibrant society and economy. Research enterprises that inspire, nurture, and develop world-class ideas and talent across the broad socioeconomic, demographic, and geographic diversity of our nation are exceedingly important in the vanguard of innovation and competitiveness.

This is an excellent, exhaustive, unique, and timely treatise covering all aspects of research and creative endeavors. Dr. Droegemeier has done a superb job of capturing and representing data, information, and knowledge about what it takes to build successful and sustainable enterprises. This coverage spans the range from an individual researcher building highest-quality research ideas to large research enterprises at the institutional level focused on inspiration and impact.

Dr. Droegemeier's vast knowledge and experience are clearly reflected throughout this book. The thoughtful inclusion of summary notes for assessing comprehension and the valuable exercises at the end of every chapter are bound to reinforce understanding and inspire new ideas.

Having served as a member of national boards and councils such as the National Science Board and as chair of the Council on Research at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, I have realized the importance of a focused exposure and training of the important elements needed to build innovative research programs and impactful research enterprises. In addition, due to my roles as a faculty researcher, academic mentor, department chair, and vice president for research, I see tremendous value in this book, especially for the following individuals:

- Graduate students who aspire to build a career in research.
- Young researchers and faculty members who are keen to build a strong research program, translating their ideas into successful projects.

- Senior researchers and administrators at a unit level who want to mentor students, faculty, and researchers to succeed in their research endeavors.
- Members of research teams who aspire to develop shared knowledge working across disciplines.
- Research staff at various levels at an institution who are motivated to serve their researchers by helping them access opportunities, configure ideas into successful projects and proposals, and build effective budgeting and execution of the projects.
- Institutional research leaders like vice presidents/vice chancellors for research who are interested in succeeding in their roles with a commitment to building a strong research office that serves the students, faculty, and researchers.
- Individuals from outside academia who want to understand the drivers and motivators for research advancement in academic enterprises to create impact.

In summary, Dr. Droegemeier's several decades of rich experience as a prolific researcher, a strong research administrator, and an innovative national science leader have resulted in this one-of-a-kind book that is bound to serve generations of researchers, practitioners, research staff, and academic administrators. His passion and commitment for serving the research community is evidenced by his efforts to make this book freely accessible to everyone across our nation.

Dr. Sethuraman (Panch) Panchanathan
February 4, 2022

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