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CHEMISTRY PUBLICATIONS

Maintaining a High Degree of Research Productivity at a PUI as Your Career Advances

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Document Type

Article (Journal or Newsletter)

Scholarship Type

Faculty Scholarship

Publication Date

2020

Abstract

In this perspective, two experienced academic administrators who are computational chemists discuss strategies for how to maintain an active research program at a predominately undergraduate institution as your career progresses. More responsibility equates to less time for research, so planning for research to remain a priority is essential. We all have the same amount of time, so figuring out how to use yours better is the key to remaining active. Professional organizations such as Council on Undergraduate Research, consortia of computational chemists such as Molecular Education and Research Consortium in computational chemistry and Midwest Undergraduate Computational Chemistry Consortium, and attendance at professional conferences can help sustain your research program. Collaborations with faculty at other institutions provide a particularly effective accountability mechanism as well. Perhaps the best way to improve your productivity is to become a better mentor to your undergraduate students. Building a research group that is fun and exciting develops a culture that sustains itself and provides the momentum necessary to maintain progress toward scientific goals.

Recommended Citation

Shields, George C. and Feller, Scott E., "Maintaining a High Degree of Research Productivity at a PUI as Your Career Advances" (2020). *Chemistry Publications*. 2.
<https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/chm-publications/2>

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