

# Planning a New Research Center or Institute Just Got Easier

Tools to quickly find faculty experts on any topic, on your campus or nationally

## Current Landscape

There is significant interest in creating multidisciplinary research centers and institutes. These entities bring together tenured faculty and junior scholars from different disciplines to collaborate on research in important, complex, emerging areas of scholarship. Centers can enhance the reputation of an institution, boost the careers of scholars, and attract funding from multiple sources.

## Institutional Challenges

While centers and institutes have many advantages over traditional academic units, they require institutional commitment and require significant institutional resources. Dr. George Walker, Senior Advisor to Academic Analytics, oversaw approximately 50 centers and institutes during his 12 years as Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Indiana University. Among the challenges he experienced were:

- **Deciding which research centers to create.** A university receives far more requests to create centers and institutes than it can accommodate. Administrators and faculty leaders must assess which opportunities would be unique and differentiate the institution from its peers, and must think strategically about how to allocate limited resources.
- **Assessing how centers and institutes are performing.** Centers and institutes compete for resources. Making decisions about resource allocation - or even deciding to close a center - can be emotional and politically charged. Having objective data about a center's relative performance and impact is valuable in these decision making processes.
- **Putting the right people together.** A research center's success depends on attracting the right faculty members. It's key to identify subject matter experts and form collaborative teams, which can be challenging.
- **Overseeing centers efficiently.** The tasks related to overseeing centers are time consuming. Administrators and key faculty members would welcome analytical tools that provide insights about creating and supporting research centers and institutes.



## Tools to Help Administrators with Research Centers and Institutes

Academic Analytics offers many tools to assist administrators in assessing, creating, and supporting research centers and institutes. The Discovery Suite and Benchmarking Suite give users powerful data and analyses to:

- Assess opportunities for unique new interdisciplinary research centers by analyzing the results of research centers at other institutions.
- Review the activity of research centers on campus to see how they compare, understand each center's strengths and opportunities, and guide resource allocation.
- Identify subject matter experts to be part of and contribute to specific research centers.
- Find, analyze, and leverage related teams and collaborative networks.
- Showcase the work of research centers to key stakeholders.
- Attract funding from multiple sources including government, industry, and philanthropy.

Learn how Academic Analytics can help you analyze the impact of and effectively manage research centers and institutes. Contact us at [info@academicanalytics.com](mailto:info@academicanalytics.com).