Educational Scholarship as a Team Sport: The C’s to Success

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Learning Objectives

Enhance engagement with others in educational research and scholarship by strengthening abilities to:

- Respond effectively to challenges that influence productivity
- Be strategic in communications, connections, and cooperation
- Collaborate effectively with others
- Optimize team member compatibility and complementarity

When?

For What?

Why?

Tips for Successful Collaboration

Start Now. . .

- Develop idea, research focus (FINER)
- Create a diverse team
- Develop roles, responsibilities, timelines
- Discuss authorship early
- Understand and address IRB
- Embrace technology
- Monitor team success

For the Long Term. . .

- Piggy-back team meetings with professional meetings
- Explore, but don’t count on funding
- Ensure participation and advancement of all
- Pay it forward – engage junior team members

Sticky Wickets in Collaboration

- Settling on a project that incentivizes team members
- Addressing IRB, when applicable
- Determining leadership
  - Valuing effective followership
- Delegating tasks - effectively
- Project management
  - Multiple strategies, forms, and occurrences
  - Listening fully, mutual focus, being specific and direct

BIG Sticky Wickets

- Authorship/Ownership – biggest sticky wicket of them all
  - Who owns what?
  - Who’s an author? What’s the line-up?
  - Author order and expectations
  - What if it needs to change?
- WIIFUMs - What’s In It For Us and Me
  - Explicit and purposeful
  - Shared benefits and learning opportunities

Achieving Sustained Collaboration

Leaders trying to create collaborative cultures tend to focus on instilling the right values or designing the right spaces. They overlook the fact that collaboration requires certain skills. (p. 74)


Critical Skills for Collaboration

- Genuinely listen to one another
- Approach discussions with empathy, not opinions
- Use feedback - giving, receiving, acting on
- Lead and follow
- Speak with clarity and avoid abstractions
- Have win-win interactions

Sustained Collaborations

- Broad respect for colleagues’ contributions
- Openness to experiment with others’ ideas
- Sensitive to how one’s actions may affect colleagues’ work and the mission’s outcome

(Gino, 2019, p. 75)
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Summary – Take Home Points

- Start with what you want to accomplish
  - Purpose, goals and objectives
- Think carefully and clearly about what you need
- Be explicit about the desired relationship
- Strive for scholarly approach and scholarship
- Use a systematic process – 8 steps and tools
  - Clarify and agree upon expectations
  - Good fit among team members and targeted work
  - Proactive collaboration, minimize sticky wickets

Let’s Talk!

Questions and Comments