



2022 PTIE Conference Abstract

Title: Swimming Across the Stream - Developing a Generation of Boundary-Spanning Faculty for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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Abstract:

Recent work in university-anchored innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building has emphasized the importance of "boundary spanners" - people who can span the boundary between the conventional world of university research, and innovation and entrepreneurship. Of particular import are boundary-spanning faculty, who link organically to the world of academic research, while contributing to and be embedded in innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems. In this talk, we will share insights into effective capacity building to encourage and develop faculty boundary-spanners, including moving away from conventional numerical metrics to measures, qualitative and quantitative, that more effectively capture both the nature and extent of faculty contributions, in support of their responsibilities to the university, and forming a basis for tenure and promotion. In particular, we will highlight that these metrics are important not only within universities for renewal and tenure, but to granting agencies as well, since grant-raising is an essential responsibility of faculty, and an important element in tenure and promotion considerations. We will share several representative examples during the talk.