CARAS: University Research Partnerships and BCIT

March 7, 2024

David Halloway: Networking and Negotiating for research goals, for release time, to hire team

- Connection with UBC as research associate while teaching there
- Tapping into relationships and networks
- Funding?
  - Subcontracted @ BCIT, faculty post-doc supervisor, 2 years funding
- Has an irregular situation at BCIT as a researcher and NSERC classifications, faculty research, research faculty
  - Got release time from teaching when BCIT sub-contracted to Stonybrook
- NSERC funding, BCIT not eligible so used university connection at UVic using Biotech labs at BCIT
- Received encouragement from partnering groups, so he became an associate at UVic
- Worked alongside supervisors and made connections via networking
- Got the first NSERC at BCIT, and had to negotiate release time
  - On his 3rd renewal
- Collaborations moved inwards to within BCIT
- Conferences played a role for connecting with others
- NSERC: Doesn't pay for release time but does pay for post-docs and graduate students

Eric Saczuk: Collaborating with students, industry, inside and outside BCIT

- Never planned to do research, just wanted to teach
- Chose BCIT because of the focus on teaching
- Then became involved with the School of Construction Environments Research Committee and got interested and investigated internal funding mechanisms
- Interest in drones started with being introduced to it by students
- Reached out to industry to get funding for release time
- Took a fifth year of sabbatical from full time teaching
- The drone program is now self funded for two years
- RPAS Hub program: Asks industry what problem can we help you solve? And then they use an applied problem-solving approach.
- Applied for lots of internal BCIT funding, as well as industry
- Sees drones as a bridge building tool. It's a site of collaboration.
  - *We can collaborate with each school at BCIT and use drones as a data collection tool.*

- Goes to conferences, workshops and training in order to build connections

Aaron Hunter: Building relationships through publishing and establishing yourself as a researcher

- Getting publications helped with getting NSERC and release time
- Dean supported work and gave him time
- Collaborative: Collaboration with researchers in Europe and Australia
- Relationships: Works with pre-existing relationships in place, but also through co-publishing papers as a way to build relationships
- The nuts and bolts of how the MasterCard partnership happened
  - With his Dean, they were going to banks. And companies asking for grant money. But the banks and companies weren't understanding what they wanted to do with it
  - Paul McCullough said, Why don't you write me some stories about his work? And so he wrote a document using stories to explain what it is they were trying to do. And then Paul McCullough shopped it around to some big companies. Eventually, he got to MasterCard. Where Aaron revised his stories about financial fraud. He used his papers on AI and was honest with them about his theoretical work, not just doing industry directed problems. In the end, with the partnership he doesn't do anything for them. They support the research interests that he wants to do
- It's hard to have a gap in your publication record, especially when applying to NSERC type of grants
- It's very difficult to get back into it, especially when you have to take time to teach at BCIT so that you're wrapping your research interests around your teaching schedule.
- A publication doesn't have to be a 40-page paper, for example. A solid conference publication is also good and requires only a short amount of time
- Within Department: Some Departments decide to rotate between members so that if it's someone else's turn, everybody does the teaching while that person takes their turn However, the problem with this is that if you're in the middle of something, it destroys your progression
  - Would rather see that Departments focus on a few researchers within the instead of spreading it out

Mirela Gutica: Finding your people

- Loves teaching and doesn't feel like doing anything else
- Likes research and curriculum development
- Finished her Ph.D. in 2014 , she tried to publish and she applied to institutional research grants
- Involved with students
  - Likes working with people and working with research teams and groups.
- Has BCIT students on her team; has them conduct the interviews on the recruited UBC students who were the subject

- Has BCIT students help analyze her data, and BCIT students also gave workshops on the topic that was under steady
- Has release time of about 20%
- Supervising students is not easy, but it's very rewarding and she was able to publish a few paper
- How to find people to collaborate with?
  - o Connect with your local universities.
  - o Connect with university researchers.
- Worked with a researcher from the University of Regina where she got funding from the researcher to have students from BCIT work together with students from UofR
- Through conferences:
  - o Found a conference group that specializes in an area that matches her interest
  - o Group creates working groups where groups of researchers apply to work on research teams exploring a topic area
  - o It starts in January of each year. Researchers can apply, and it's good to have some background in the topic being proposed
  - o Each chair of the working group will select up to 10 participants
  - o They meet online from the end of March until the conference
  - o Sometimes they get literature reviews done and do some data collection
  - o They meet at the conference and they work intensively with their groups and then they submit a draft report that is peer reviewed
  - o In two to three weeks, the group receives feedback and gets the green light to whether or not continue
  - o Deadline to submit their final report is in September
  - o Has been a chair of a working group with colleagues from SFU and UBC.
- This approach is where networking leads to collaborating