



## **The Federal Demonstration Partnership**

**The Nevada System of Higher Education – represented by DRI, UNLV, UNR, and the NSHE Sponsored Programs office** – has been selected to be a member of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) to participate in the Phase V initiatives of this prestigious organization.

NSHE joins 9 federal agencies and over 100 other research institutions around the country to contribute to FDP's primary goals of increasing research productivity and decreasing administrative burden while maintaining effective stewardship of federal funds.

### **Membership in the FDP requires NSHE to:**

- Establish and maintain procedures and systems that comply with federal requirements for administering federal awards for research;
- Support the active involvement and participation of research administrators, faculty, and technical representatives in FDP meetings, demonstrations and committees/task forces;
- Continue efforts to re-engineer and streamline internal processes; and
- Report periodically on FDP participation and on-campus efforts to streamline processes.

**The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)** is a cooperative initiative among federal agencies and institutional recipients of federal funds, and its overall mission is to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts. The interaction between FDP's university and federal members takes place at FDP's three annual meetings and, more extensively, in the many collaborative working groups and task forces that meet often by conference calls in order to develop specific work products.

The FDP is a unique forum for individuals from universities and nonprofit organizations to work collaboratively with federal agency officials to improve the national research enterprise. At its regular meetings, FDP members hold spirited, frank discussions, identify problems, and develop action plans for change. Then these new ways of doing business are tested in the real world before putting them into effect.

**More detailed information about FDP history, organization, and initiatives can be found at <http://thefdp.org/>**

During Phase V, the FDP will continue its efforts to assure that federally funded researchers and research programs are effective and productive, and that the underlying systems and administrative processes do not unnecessarily hinder the research process.

**Phase V is organized around two main themes:**

- 1) Maximize the time available for Principal Investigators and scientific staff to focus on research while reducing unnecessary administrative burden; and
- 2) Increase the efficiency of administrative and compliance practices while reducing inefficient or redundant agency and institutional procedures and practices.

**Within these two themes, Phase V will encompass four overarching goals:**

- a) Successful completion of at least five internally generated high priority projects. Examples include a new project to increase staff support for PIs, a new project to address the grant application process, and continuation of work on effort reporting and standardization of progress reporting.
- b) Maintain an effective forum for ongoing collaboration to address current and emerging external issues that impact the grants process. This includes continuing to strengthen the “community” across federal and institutional partner organizations and encouraging the use of the FDP as a sounding board.
- c) Develop and implement an effective strategy for communicating and engaging key stakeholders. Examples include the Grants Policy Committee, the Research Business Models Subcommittee (a subcommittee of the Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council), the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable.
- d) Ensure that the FDP has the right membership and structure to carry out the mission of Phase V. This includes continued encouragement of the participation of Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs) and involvement of federal granting agencies not already participating in the FDP.

**Participation by representatives from NSHE institutions will strengthen Nevada’s research infrastructure** through collaboration, participation in FDP demonstration projects, and System-wide streamlining initiatives to improve administrative processes and overall accountability for the stewardship of public funds. Immediate benefits from FDP membership include the more flexible grant terms and conditions that apply to FDP institutions and valuable agency and collegial contacts that are made through networking and participation in project efforts.