Design, Impact and Best Practices for a Graduate Research and Innovation Center

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UPRM Background
Identifying our constituent needs

2009
- Identify gaps & needs of Graduate Programs
- Surveys – Graduate Students
- Focus Groups – Program Coordinators

2012

2013

2014
Identifying our constituent needs

2009

2012

- Improved research culture across campus
- Discussion round tables
  - Faculty/Administrators/Graduate Students

2013

2014
Identifying our constituent needs

- 2009
- 2012
- 2013
  - Policy changes to improve research culture
  - Online Forums
    - Faculty/Graduate Students
- 2014
Identifying our constituent needs

- 2009
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

- Assess current state of support for research computing & data management
- Interviews
  - Researchers/Information Technology/ Administrators
Securing Funding

Engineering Faculty

Expand academic offering
Create experiential learning & field research facilities
Data management infrastructure
FT research services librarian

Library Staff

Upraise institutional STEM environment
Technology-infused library & collaborative learning space
Library e-resources
IT specialist
Meeting the needs of our graduate student and faculty community
Design and Implementation

User input

Layout results
Facilities

Inviting, comfortable, and easy to adapt according to users needs
Technology and Equipment

Head Scanner + PC

35” Curved Monitor

55” + 80” Monitors

Floor to ceiling whiteboards + walls for writing

Media:scape + 32” Monitor + Laptops

Video Conference System + Stick PC
Workshop Topics

- Research methodology
- Data management
- Scholarly communication
- Digital scholarship
- Search strategies
- Ethical use of information
- Communication skills
- Technical writing

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Impact
Our Student Research Fellows

2017
- 7 Fellows
- 2 EREA

2018
- 6 Fellows
- 4 EREA

2019
- 6 Fellows
- 3 EREA

*Graduate Research Fellows ( 9 Fellowships)
Extramural Research Summer Experience Award Fellows (11 EREA Fellowships)
Graduate Student Visitor Profile

- Engineering, 35%
- Sciences, 29%
- Agricultural Sciences, 24%
- Arts, 8%
- Business Administration, 4%
Writing Services Consultations

2016: 76
2017: 275
2018: 330
2019: 180
Writing Clinics

Participants

- Literature Review
- Writing for STEM
- Tone and Audience
- Transition and Clarity
- Grammar Basics & Review
- Elevator Speech
- Planning

- Organization
- Clarity
- Coherence
- Oral & Poster Presentations
- Evidence in STEM
- Abstracts
- Visual Design
- ...
Thesis/Dissertation Defenses

- Science: 18%
- Engineering: 42%
- Arts: 16%
- Agriculture: 24%

- 2016: 3
- 2017: 1
- 2018: 40
- 2019: 11
Best practices and lessons learned

Meaningful partnerships and integration of key stakeholders throughout campus to tailor services and foster collaborative projects.

INITIAL PARTNERS

NEW PARTNERS
Best practices and lessons learned

2. Define services aligned with the research lifecycle

3. Use space for incoming graduate student orientation

RESEARCH LIFECYCLE

WORKSHOPS . CONSULTATION . LIBGUIDES
Best practices and lessons learned

4. Holistic suite of services + knowledgeable specialists

5. Strong use of social media for user engagement
Best practices and lessons learned

6 Flexible workspaces
Best practices and lessons learned

7 A safe space

It was completely necessary. I could not have finished my thesis without the GRIC.

For our graduate students it was key to enabling them to keep making routine progress on course work and theses requiring research, online work, and a space in which to comfortably and safely work during atypical hours and an unprecedented social and humanitarian crisis.

It was my lifesaver. I did not have a place or facilities to study. Opening 24 hours was an excellent opportunity. There are no adequate places to study anywhere in Mayagüez. If it had not been for GRIC I could not have finished successfully (I'm a PhD student) [translated]

You were a lifesaver for me as a faculty member this semester as well. I still have extremely limited access to Internet at home and found GRIC an ideal space to get my own academic work done. In addition, I scheduled various workshops and presentations for my students there this semester. It is an academic refuge in the very best sense!
Follow the #gricteam

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GRIC UPRM

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References