Northeastern Research Leadership Development Initiative (ReDI)

2017 – 2018 Cohort Challenge: A University Project

Goal: The goal of the Cohort Challenge is to provide an opportunity for the ReDI Cohort to work in smaller teams using the strategies discussed in the Toolkit Workshops. It not only provides ReDI participants an opportunity to participate in an applied leadership activity, it also provides the opportunity to engage with the Provost's Leadership Team about best practices to support and promote the University's research environment.

The ReDI workshops and conversations with faculty members who hold large-scale leadership positions deepen ReDI participants' knowledge of leadership skills and provide information on how research is currently supported and conducted at Northeastern. The Cohort Challenge is an opportunity for the ReDI Cohort, as a group of highly successful researchers, to investigate best practices that can improve university initiatives and the research enterprise at Northeastern as well as broaden each participant's own research scope and network.

Process: Participants have the opportunity to submit their own topic in addition to the Provost's Cohort Challenge Topics (see details below). Participants arrive at the Toolkit Workshops in May familiar with the topics. At the end of day 1, participants will rank order their topics. Teams are then finalized where teams contain no fewer than four participants and no more than six participants, and that all groups are interdisciplinary.

Milestones:		
	April 20:	Any new Cohort Challenge topics submitted
	May 8:	Teams established and convene their first meeting during the Toolkit Workshop
	May 11-June 27:	Teams meet at least once
	June 27-Sept. 12:	Teams meet at least once
	Sept. 13–Dec. 14:	Teams work together and meet as part of How the University Works sessions – once in June, once in September, and twice in October
	October 24:	Teams submit a draft White Paper
	November 9:	Teams complete a dry-run of their presentation
	December 14:	Teams present their project to the Provost's Leadership Team

May through December, groups meet regularly to continue to work on their Cohort Challenge. On October 24 each group submits a draft White Paper, which is a written document outlining their research and recommendations on their topic. On November 9, each team presents a dry-run of their presentation. Each group receives feedback on its presentation which can be incorporated into the group's final Cohort Challenge presentation to the Provost's Leadership Team on December 14.

Each team will have 20 minutes to present including time for Q&A. Teams are encouraged to keep their content to 10 minutes in order to allow sufficient time for questions from the Provost's Leadership Team.

Topics: In addition to the topics suggested by the Provost's Leadership Team, ReDI participants have the opportunity to suggest additional topics. Criteria for the suggested topics include:

- Larger and broader than what you normally think about and work on
- A topic that you may consider pursuing post-ReDI
- Interdisciplinary focus engaging multiple departments and colleges
- An outcome that is important to you, your college, and Northeastern

If a ReDI participant wishes to submit a topic, they must submit a paragraph overview to Jan Rinehart (j.rinehart@northeastern.edu) no later than April 20.