Greetings from the Executive Director | Laura Lynn

Dear Colleagues,

What’s in a Name?

We were pleased in August to announce the change of Center for Research Support (CRS) to the **Center for Research Quality** (CRQ). This new title reflects how the Center has evolved and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of a large university that supports student and faculty research and scholarship. As the Center has matured, the role has expanded significantly to include matters related to supporting and maintaining research quality, and our new name better reflects a balance between guidance and support the Center provides for the university.

The Center for Research Support (CRS) was formed in 2007 in order to bring many research-related functions under one university–wide unit. Over the years, the CRS has been responsible for:

- Processing of dissertations, theses, and doctoral study approvals.
- Conducting research ethics reviews and convening our Institutional Review Board.
- Supporting the various academic programs, including investigating research misconduct.
- Administering research grants, scholarships, and awards for students and faculty members.
- Promoting scholarship through Walden journals and the biannual research symposium.
- Developing educational materials and tutorials related to research methods and analysis.
- Managing the training and review processes to maintain research quality.
- Providing research content for academic residencies curricula.
- Participation in program review and accreditation efforts.
Many initiatives have been accomplished during this time under the Center’s leadership including:

- A revised University Research Review (URR) process.
- Significantly revised and enhanced research curricula at academic residencies.
- University-wide research sequence, including advanced courses, designed to meet doctoral research outcomes.
- Methodology advising services for faculty.
- Implementation of the Research Dissemination Support Program to support the publication/presentation of faculty research and research-related activities.
- Creation of a searchable database of faculty expertise.
- Expansion of the university research symposium, and enhancement of Walden research journals.
- Development of the Faculty Research Initiative Grant program to support faculty research.
- Identification of doctoral competencies and milestones, and creation of the “litmus test”.
- Design of externally valid studies of Walden research capstone quality to identify specific opportunities for improvement.
- Revised evaluation instruments for the dissertation and prospectus.
- Walden’s Community Research Partners study.

Looking ahead this year and next, we are focused on collaborating with other units and the colleges to focus on targeted supports for research skills enhancement across the student timeline, faculty development for research mentoring, and research capstone quality assurance.

We look forward to continued service, innovation, and support in working to support your scholarship and your work with students. I greatly enjoyed discussing our name change and services with many of you at our Center Fair at the University Faculty Meeting.

Please visit the website at researchcenter.waldenu.edu for resources and information to support student and faculty research. If you have any questions about the Center, its mission or resources, please contact crq@waldenu.edu. I would be happy to hear your thoughts and feedback.

Sincerely,

Laura
Faculty Research Initiative Grant Program | Molly Lauck

The Faculty Research Initiative Grant (FRIG) program was established to support excellence in scholarly work by providing funding for select faculty research projects deemed to be of exceptional merit. The program is open to all faculty members who have been employed by Walden for a minimum of six months and is intended to provide “seed money” for the development of faculty research agendas. Funds can be used to support pilot research projects, small-scale research studies and to supplement new areas of larger on-going research projects.

The Director of the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP), working with the Research-based Review Committee, will make awards of up to $10,000, in response to research proposals submitted. A total of $120,000 will be awarded in FY 2012.

Additional information, including the 2012 FRIG Program Request For Proposals (RFP) can be found on the ORSP page of the CRQ website. Questions about the FRIG Program should be directed to grants@waldenu.edu.

Retiring the Dissertation Prospectus 1.0 | Daniel Salter

It is difficult to believe that we launched the new Dissertation Prospectus 2.0 approach six months ago. The ease of this shift to a new format has been phenomenal – a testimony to the hard work of the countless people who gave input into the revision and everyone who helped our students to make the transition. Some true shining stars have been the staff of the Office of Student Research Administration (OSRA) and the various program leaders who review and approve these documents. Both groups have been processing prospectuses in two formats during this shift.

The time has come to make their lives easier and to retire the old “Prospectus 1.0”. Hence, with the launch of Fall quarter 2012, the OSRA will no longer be processing documents written under the old format. Please encourage any students, for whom this change may present a challenge, to adopt the new format as soon as possible. They need to keep in mind that “a prospectus is a prospectus”, and that the format was updated with the ostensive goal of
improving the quality of their dissertation. Questions can be directed to research@waldenu.edu.

**Higher Learning Commission Reaffirmation Team Visit**

by Gary Burkholder

**Mark Your Calendars – October 15-17, 2012**

As part of voluntary membership in the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association region, institutions agree to undergo a periodic process of reaffirmation of regional accreditation. Many individuals from departments within Walden University have been engaged in a process of self-study to achieve that goal. The process of reaffirmation of accreditation provides us with a unique opportunity to examine the areas in which we are strong and the opportunities we have to continue excellence in teaching and in learning by our students; we also, particularly through the special emphasis self study, show that Walden University “lives” its mission of positive social change. We demonstrate that we meet the standards described by five Core Criteria: Mission and Integrity; Preparing for the Future; Student Learning and Effective Teaching; Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge; and Engagement and Service.

The date of the team visit to the university is just around the corner – October 15–17, 2012. We submitted our self-study to the Higher Learning Commission on August 20. A variety of meetings are in progress during which we are helping prepare the Walden community for the visit.

The working group on research consists of Dr. Louis Milanesi and Dr. Gary Burkholder as Co-Chairs. We are joined by Jeff Zuckerman, Writing Center, and Josh Saunders, Director of Product Management for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and College of Health Sciences. In our regular reviews of the self study, we have provided feedback on areas related to research, and our goal has been to ensure that the research quality efforts have been adequately described in the self-study. For example, we were able to document a very rich history of continuous improvement related to doctoral research quality. Initiatives undertaken that provide evidence of this include:

- Creation of the Doctoral Task Force in 2007
- Development and governance approval of 7 broad research areas and 48 specific research competencies
- Development and implementation of a 6-course doctoral research sequence based on those outcomes
- Programs to support faculty scholarship, including the Faculty Research Initiation Grant (FRIG) and the Research Dissemination Support (RDS) programs
- Implementation of the University Research Reviewer process.
In addition, in 2012, we completed development and implementation of the new Ph.D. dissertation checklists and evaluation rubrics, and a new rubric and revised format for the dissertation prospectus. Although we recognize that more progress related to doctoral capstone quality is needed, the team feels confident that we have taken significant steps to improve research quality.

If you have any questions about the HLC self study process or about the upcoming visit, please feel free to contact HLCFeedback@waldenu.edu. We also invite you to visit Accreditation: Your Voice in Continuing Quality in the eCampus community and participate in the discussions. There will continue to be ongoing discussions to collect your feedback regarding our institution and the self study process.

Research Journal Flyer | Daniel Salter

As highlighted in the previous editions of re:Research, our research journals have all moved to the Walden University Publishing area and are “open for business”. We want to encourage all active researchers to consider these journals as potential outlets for their work (and judging by the RDS awards at the end of this newsletter, folks have been busy!) The editors are also always looking to fill key roles on their editorial boards.

We would also like to encourage you to make colleagues outside of Walden aware of our journals, either for their dissemination efforts or as potential board members. To that end, we have constructed a one-page flyer on our journals, which will be used for professional conferences and other events that Walden University attends. You can download a digital copy from the CRQ website. If you have any specific questions about a journal, contact the appropriate editor at the email addresses below.

- **Journal of Educational Research and Practice**
  contact Paula Dawidowicz at JERAP@waldenu.edu

- **Journal of Social Change**
  contact John Nirenberg at JSC@waldenu.edu

- **Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences**
  contact Vince Fortunato at JSBHS@waldenu.edu

- **International Journal of Applied Management and Technology**
  contact Raghu Korrapati at IJAMT@waldenu.edu
Research Forum Coordination | Kurt Schoch

As the Center for Research Quality continues its overall coordination and support of the Knowledge Area Modules (KAMs), a new page is being created to house “all things KAMs” as part of the CRQ website. This page will contain documents, links, tutorials, and other resources, thus consolidating materials previously housed in various places. Faculty mentors and students will find all KAM curriculum guides there, as well as links to faculty training in ELMS. The goal is to have this new page operational in early September, providing a “one-stop shopping” experience for faculty and students to meet their KAM support needs.

Enhancing Your Methodology Expertise Through Walden University Research Tutorials | Gary Burkholder

For many, doctoral capstone research (the dissertation, doctoral study, and project study) presents a significant challenge: students are expected at this stage to conduct independent research. To achieve their goals, most students will need to conduct further training in a particular methodological area. In addition, faculty members may supervise students using methods and methodologies with which they are less familiar.

Walden faculty members, in conjunction with curriculum design experts, have developed several research method and methodology tutorials. The purpose of the tutorials is to provide you with an overview of the method / methodology, the types of research questions that can be addressed using that approach, and some more detailed information regarding philosophical underpinnings, assumptions, etc. that can influence the decision for a research to use that particular approach. Included in every tutorial is a lengthy list of references that you can use to investigate further and decide whether that method/methodology is the right one for your research question.

We invite you to check out the tutorials. Currently, the following method/methodology tutorials are available at www.researchcenter.waldenu.edu. You can access them by clicking on the Research Resources tab on the left side of the page and then clicking on the various hyperlinked items under the Research Planning and Writing and Research Design and Analysis sections.

- Research Planning and Writing: Research Approaches and Theoretical Frameworks
- Research Writing and Analysis
Watch for new tutorials to be added this year. These include: (a) Secondary Data Analysis; (b) Program Evaluation; and (c) Introduction to Multivariate Analysis.

Our goal is to continue to provide access to high quality research support to complement what you learn in your courses at during residencies. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Center for Research Quality at crq@waldenu.edu.

April & June 2012 RDS Award Recipients

The Research Dissemination Support (RDS) program supports faculty who promote the visibility and scholarly reputation of Walden University through the dissemination of their research and research-related activities. The RDS program offers two types of awards: 1) Presentation RDS – travel support for research and research-related presentations at conferences; and 2) Publication RDS – support for research and research-related publications. For further information about this program, including how to apply, please download the RDS Program Guidelines, which can be found on the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs page of the CRQ website.

RDS award recipients' names appear below in bold-face.

Center for Research Quality


**College of Health Sciences**


**College of Management and Technology**


Nirenberg, J. (2012, July). Affordable, accessible, and recognized: The next frontier in educating public service, non-governmental (NGO) and other civil society organization (CSO) professionals. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (in association with the International Institute of Administrative Sciences), Bangkok, Thailand.


College of Social and Behavioral Sciences


Kirby, M. (2012, March). *What does bullying have to do with it?* Poster presented at the National-Youth-at-Risk Conference, Savannah, Georgia. USA


Rush-Wilson, T., Gaviria, C., Felton, N.. (2012, May). Wow, THOSE women really love their bodies! Transcultural perspectives of body image from her point of view. Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the Academy for Eating Disorders, Austin, Texas, USA.


American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida, USA.


**College of Undergraduate Studies**


**The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**


