



Researching to Tier One Status

With the looming idea of budget cuts for higher education in Texas, the resource of money is on many people's minds. With Texas Tech trying to reach Tier One research status, the use of faculty to bring in research dollars is crucial.

As stated in information provided by the Office of the President, "The ultimate goal is to become one of the nation's truly great institutions, a university that conducts research that changes lives, that educates students who are globally competitive, and drives the formation of new businesses that significantly enhances the local and state economy."

Texas Tech's goal to reach Tier One status began after being named one of seven emerging research universities in the nation. Several of the criteria to reach Tier One status involve raising a certain amount of money for research. This goal can only be accomplished with the cooperation of each individual college.

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) is doing its share to help the university reach this goal. CASNR brings in more money per faculty member than any other college at the university.

According to a publication created by CASNR, the college has the highest sponsored funding generated per faculty at the university. For every \$4 brought into the university by sponsorship, the college receives \$1 in state line-item funds.

Sukant Misra, Associate Dean of Research in CASNR, proudly spoke about the college's research funding as he

showed a draft of the next academic year's funding summary projections.

"We may not bring in as many total dollars as the other colleges, but we are small in number," Misra said as he looked at the oversized draft. "We have 73 tenured faculties, when other colleges have twice that."

While the small faculty-to-student ratio is something CASNR is proud of, the high ratio of research funding-to-faculty is another strong point of the college.

"We are very proud of our staff, they do a great job of bringing in funding for their research," Misra said.

Although budget cuts are a concern while trying to reach Tier One status, Misra said CASNR is doing its part in providing research to the university. The college is producing graduates with a strong work ethic and the ability to think creatively while fundraising for CASNR. Research being done in CASNR is aiding in this truly ambitious goal.

"The ultimate goal is to become one of the nation's truly great institutions," the Texas Tech website states, "a university that conducts research that changes lives, that educates students who are globally competitive, and drives the formation of new businesses that significantly enhance the local and state economy." 



Danielle White | Amarillo, Texas

