

# Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

# Brad Zdenek on Institutional Research Agendas [34:19]

## Research in Action - Episode 13

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### Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Brad Zdenek, the Innovation Strategist for the Center for Online Innovation in Learning at Penn State University, where he is responsible for initiating, directing, conducting, analyzing and reporting on the Center’s projects, research, and evaluation activities. Brad earned his B.A. in Secondary Education at Flagler College in Florida and taught middle school Social Studies in North Carolina prior to joining Penn State. While at Penn State, Brad worked with the Regional Educational Laboratory program leading a team in developing and delivering professional development opportunities throughout the Mid-Atlantic region focused on bridging scientifically valid research, policy, and practice. Brad is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Leadership at Penn State. His research interests include professional development and adult learning, educational ethics, and the integration and diffusion of educational technology.

Segment One [00:00-11:07] - In this segment, Brad shares about his work at the Center for Online Innovation in Learning (COIL) and some of the research and development projects funded by COIL.

Segment Two [21:46-34:19] - In this segment, Brad and the host discuss creating research agendas tied to institutional mission, the benefits and challenges of institutional research agendas, and how this research differs from individual research agendas.

Segment Three [19:45-29:49] - In this segment, Brad shares his thoughts on the disconnect between research needs and capacity for research in higher education and shares his ideas for making better research connections across disciplines, units, and institutions.

Bonus Clip #1 [00:00-4:28]: Collaborations between COIL and External Partners

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e13/>

### Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Review some examples of the connection between learning and online innovation at an educational institution
- Give an example of a project as it relates to the connection of research and innovation
- Discuss an example of research agenda development within higher education
- Discuss some approaches to addressing challenges within collaborations
- Provide an example of needs versus capacity for research in higher education
- Explain ways to facilitate connections as it relates to needs versus capacity for research in higher education

### Guiding Questions for Listening

- According to Brad Zdenek, what is COIL’s purpose at the institution where he works and how is research involved?
- What was COIL’s role in the example given regarding the digital badging platform project?
- In Brad Zdenek’s work within COIL, what are some of the initial steps that go into building their research agendas?
- What does Brad Zdenek say “has really helped us in building a larger family and building a larger collaborative network and acceptance”?
- What appear to be some of the challenges involved with choosing research priorities?
- What are some of the suggested approaches to addressing these challenges?
- According to Brad Zdenek, what does he think is one of the reasons there are challenges within collaborations?
- What “common issue” and idea came out of out of Brad Zdenek’s work with the STEM scout project?
- According to Brad Zdenek, what are some challenges in systematizing as it relates to research collaboration and external outreach? (see also, Bonus Clip)

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e13/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e13/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students explore whether your institution has units or departments with a published “agenda” for research. If not, ask students to brainstorm what that research agenda might be.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode or the content of the episode’s bonus clips. What would they ask Brad Zdenek if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2016, June 27). *Brad Zdenek on Institutional Research Agendas* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e13/>

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

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