You're listening to Research in Action, Episode 182. Welcome to Research in Action, a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. I'm your host, Dr. Katie Linder, Research Director at Oregon State University Ecampus, a national leader in online education. Along with every episode, we post show notes with links to resources mentioned in the episode, a full transcript, and an instructor guide for incorporating the episode into your courses. Visit our website at ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast to find all of these resources.

Hey there, RIA listeners. In this first episode of the 2020 year, I'm coming to you with a bit of a sad goodbye. I am leaving Oregon State University and my position as the Research Director at Oregon State University Ecampus. And I have taken another position at another university. And unfortunately, I cannot take Research in Action with me. This is a project that grew up in Oregon State Ecampus, and I just had the privilege of hosting the show over the past four years. In that time, we have had over 325,000 downloads, and listeners from all 50 states and over 100 countries. And it has been a true privilege to interview all of the guests we've had on the show. And I have learned so much over that time.

So on this episode, I want to talk a little bit about why I started the podcast, what I learned during that time, and a little bit about what's next for Research in Action. So when I first had the idea of thinking about podcasting, and when I talked about it with our marketing team here at Ecampus really were the deep root for that was, was that I needed at myself. I really wanted a podcast focused on research where I could learn and grow and have other people share their experiences in a way that I could maybe apply some of their lessons to my own research career.

And one of the things that I've always heard from our listeners on Research in Action is your appreciation for when I say, "I don't know what that means," or I express some vulnerability around a particular topic that we're covering on the show. Because the truth is even though we have PhDs, or we're working towards PhDs or we conduct research on a consistent basis, we're all still learning. And we don't know everything there is to know. And I think one of the most important things that we can do as researchers is to admit that we don't know something.

And I was always that person in my own grad school career who would raise my hand and say, "I don't know what that means. Can you please explain or can you please offer an example?" And I was able to bring that to Research in Action, and ask for examples, and ask for our guests to further explain the very complicated topics in some cases that they were researching. And of course, I learned so much from each of those topics, and was able to build an incredible network of researchers that came together to come and be on the show.

I also learned over that time that people can be successful researchers in a ton of different ways. There is really no one way to do this work in higher ed. And because we have such different disciplines, and different methodologies, and different experiences as we come into our research roles, we really have to carve out our own ways of doing this work. And that's a really important part of being a researcher in higher education is that willingness to learn, that willingness to admit that we don't know something, but also the bravery to carve things out and figure out what it is that we need to do as researchers.

The other really important lesson I think that I've learned through Research in Action, and hopefully you've had a glimpse of this as well, is that we can really learn from other people's experiences even when they are not using the methodologies that we use, and even when they're not within our own disciplines. And this is something that I've certainly taken away when I learned from writers who write things like fiction, and I can take lessons from their experiences, but I can also take lessons from the experiences of people who are practicing really different research than what I do. And one of the things I've always tried to do on the show is to ask people about how they organize their research, or how they're being productive writers. Some of the things that can really be generalizable for all of us who are practicing work in this area.

So I have just taken away such an incredible amount of information from doing this show. And I guess I just want it to be open and share that when I first started it, I really didn't know a lot about what I was doing. And over this period of time where we've conducted, well, over 170, 175 interviews, it's been a massive learning experience for me in terms of how to conduct interviews, how to prep guests to come on the show and to share, so that they're put in their best light, and how to be able to shape content in a way that can be really helpful and useful for other people.

I want to thank those of you who have written into me at some point, whether that's on Twitter or via email to share how the show has been helpful for you. And just in this past week, I heard from a grad student in Canada who was telling me that his whole cohort listens to the show, and how helpful it's been to be able to get answers to questions that they didn't feel like they could ask in their home environment. And I want to encourage you all to ask those questions, and to admit that maybe you don't know something and that is okay. We are all not experts of all the things. And we do to be able to ask questions and be curious about how we can do research better, and what are all the different kinds of ways that we can approach this work.

So what is next for Research in Action? I will be releasing a couple of episodes that were prerecorded in 2019. And so you'll hear me on a couple of episodes that are coming up through January and February, but we are in the process here at the research unit at Oregon State Ecampus of doing a search to replace my role. And what that means is that we need to wait and see what the person wants to do, who eventually comes into this role. And they'll have some control and ideas over what they want to do with the podcast. And until that is settled and established, we're going to pull back slightly on the production schedule of the show.

So over the next couple of months, you're going to see episodes released every other week. And then there may be some archived episodes thrown in there as the leadership team, and the research unit here at Ecampus is deciding how to continue with the show. You can still follow the show to receive updates on Twitter at ria\podcast. And I would encourage you to do that. So there are definitely still some details being worked out because with Ecampus, this was a major project that I was responsible for. And so I'm in the process of transitioning all the knowledge and documentation of how to do this show. But as you know, if you've been a longtime lister, we've had Mary Ellen come on as a guest host, and she will remain with the unit and maybe offering episodes as well in the future.

So transitions are always a little bit challenging, and especially when you have kind of an evolution of something that changes over time and maybe changes what it looks like or what it sounds like. And that is definitely the case here. There is going to be a little bit of an evolution with Research in Action. And while we're waiting to figure out what will happen with that in the future, I would encourage you to go back and listen to some of our archived episodes. We have now over 180 episodes that you can listen to. And a lot of that content is really very evergreen. It's lessons that you can continue to take away and apply. It is not something that listening to it once gets you all that you need to get out of a particular episode. There are some that I've listened to multiple times myself.

And also I think, there's just this library of content that's very rich in terms of using episodes for your classrooms and using the instructor guides that we create for you every week to incorporate these things into either a graduate class or an undergraduate class, where you can help students to really hear from researchers who are absolutely doing this work every day. And there's so many lessons that can come from that. I do hope that you will come and find me online, and follow along with some of the other things that I'll be doing.

You can find me on LinkedIn, and I will go ahead and post a link to that into the show notes. One of the things that has been a true gift for me from Research in Action is that it of course led me into the world of podcasting. And I do have other shows as well. So if you find me on LinkedIn, or if you want to search my name, wherever you find your podcasts, you will find other podcasts that I will continue to produce over the time in the coming year when I'm transitioning to my new role.

So I want to end this episode with so much gratitude for this experience of being able to host the show for my colleagues at Ecampus who put resources and time into helping me produce it, to all of our guests who came on the show, and especially the early ones who had no idea what this was, and were willing to take the leap with me and do these interviews, who opened themselves up, who shared about what they're learning and how they're growing as researchers, to my colleagues here in the research unit, Mary Ellen, who came and joined me as a guest host, and to my other colleagues who came on the show and chatted about the show. And of course, to all of you. People who have been listening to this show for, some of you, years, some of you, since the very beginning, and for those of you who've just found us never fear, you can always go back and listen to all of our archived episodes. And I hope you will.

So thank you so much for this gift, for being a part of my life for the last four plus years as I've produced this show. And I'm excited to stay connected with you all. I hope you have a wonderful 2020. And thanks again so much for your engagement with Research in Action. I'm Katie Linder. And it's been such a privilege to provide this resource for you. Thanks for listening.

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