

Office for Faculty Advancement Report:
UW 2014-15 Institutional Membership with
the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity ([NCFDD](#)) offers online professional development and mentoring services to registered users who are faculty, postdocs, or graduate students. Resources offered include programs that seek to improve time management and productivity, quarterly course planning, writing skills, and a work-life balance. Currently, 41 universities, including those within the University of California system, Stanford University, The Ohio State University, and the University of Illinois, maintain an institutional membership with NCFDD.

In September 2014, the University of Washington entered into a one-year, trial membership with NCFDD for all three of its campuses. The cost for institutional membership was \$20,000, which was paid by the Provost's Office. The Office for Faculty Advancement attempted to inform all faculty, postdocs, and graduate students about institutional membership through a marketing campaign that included communication with associate and divisional deans, the Graduate School, and Faculty Fellows Program participants. A total of **119 faculty, 15 postdocs, and 111 graduate students** from across the three UW campuses enrolled to use NCFDD services during the year.

In June 2015, the Office for Faculty Advancement surveyed NCFDD users at the UW to evaluate and assess the impact of our institutional membership on those faculty, postdoc, and graduate students who enrolled and accessed NCFDD resources. The evaluation was conducted via a Catalyst Web Survey over the course of two weeks (6/16 - 6/30) and was completed by **103 respondents** (43% response rate).

The results of the survey indicate that most users were active members with at least weekly visits to the NCFDD website and programs. Users were also mostly faculty from the Seattle campus with 5+ years at the UW. The most popular resources were the writing challenges and Monday Motivator (NCFDD's weekly productivity tips and mentoring messages), both ranked by users as "most helpful." Overall, users found the most obvious benefits they gained from the program were better time management, improved productivity levels, stress management, and improved quarterly plans. Almost all users (96%) agreed that NCFDD offered the resources that they expected to find, and 71% were "**very satisfied**" with the quality of those resources. Not surprisingly then, **a near unanimous consensus** (98%) would recommend NCFDD to their colleagues.

An open-ended question on the survey allowed users to offer their overall impression of NCFDD. Responses included suggestions for institutional membership renewal, appraisal of NCFDD webinars and writing challenges, as well as personal reflections on improved writing and research productivity based on web-based mentorship. Examples include:

- "I am doing the bootcamp offered through NCFDD and expect to continue to use the resources for years to come after bootcamp. So far, it has been amazing!" – Assistant Professor, UW Seattle

- “This is a phenomenal resource. I am very grateful to have access to it and find that it supports my productivity, writing, and progress significantly.” – Assistant Professor, UW Seattle
- “Not only I, but all of the junior faculty in my department have been participating and finding this resource very helpful.” –Associate Professor, UW Seattle
- “This is a fantastic resource! Thank you so much for supporting it. It has changed the way I work and made me much more efficient.” -- PostDoc, UW Seattle
- “My research productivity skyrocketed as I managed to get more acceptances than ever before after participating in their program. – Assistant Professor, UW Seattle

The UW institutional membership is set to expire on August 31, 2015. Membership may be renewed at the same initial rate of \$20,000. If renewal is pursued, the Office for Faculty Advancement is prepared to continue managing the UW’s institutional membership, as well as coordinate opportunities for our registered faculty users to access NCFDD resources in groups, for their continued engagement and to potentially increase their collaborative experiences across disciplines.

Statistical profile of survey respondents:

Primary Position at UW

Faculty:	66%
Post-doc:	3.9%
Graduate Student:	30.1%

Campus Affiliation

Seattle:	90.3%
Bothell:	6.8%
Tacoma:	2.9%

Length of Stay at UW

About a year:	10.7%
1-3 years:	29.1%
3-5 years:	15.5%
5+ years:	44.7%

Self-label on Membership Status:

Active member (weekly visits):	41.8%
Regular member (monthly visits):	30.1%
Occasional user (every other month visits):	18.5%
Inactive member (every few months):	9.7%