Collaboration

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL

DR. JOANN KEYTON
NC STATE

MISSOURI EPSCOR
Goals of this Collaboration

- Can take many forms
  - The form it takes has to *serve the goal*

- Goals of EPSCOR
  - Build infrastructure, knowledge, and collaborations in research and education across Missouri

- Identify trends
  - temperature and water availability
  - impact of these trends on the productivity of native flora and agricultural crops
  - how different stakeholder communities are likely to respond to a changing climate
Collaboration

A communication network representing multiple stakeholders or organizations working interdependently to address problems outside of individuals or organizations working in isolation
Collaboration is both

- **Structure**
  - Informal structure emerges even though there’s a formal structure
  - Within and across disciplines
  - Within and across institutions

- **Process**
  - Occurs through communication
  - Can’t be imposed, must be freely enacted by participants, and encouraged and valued by leadership
Focus on the *process*
not the *structure*
Collaboration occurs when

- Interaction among teams or disciplines advance knowledge, research design, and new ways of collecting, analyzing, and using data

- But first, interinstitutional and interdisciplinary teams need energetic information and idea exchange
Collaboration is important

- Collaboration creates new knowledge
- Collaboration demonstrates process for students; gives them new skills

**What should the teams be doing across disciplines and across institutions to meet EPSCOR goals?**
Collaboration is not

My output is your input
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Collaboration</th>
<th>Yes Collaboration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Individuals and teams working on <em>independent</em> projects</td>
<td>• Individuals and teams working on <em>interdependent</em> projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Findings are not shared with others</td>
<td>• Problems and findings shared regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Leader-led discussion; reporting not problem solving</td>
<td>• Researcher-led problem solving discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Real learning across researchers and projects does not occur</td>
<td>• Researchers are encouraged to <em>add on</em> or <em>take away</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Few or no meetings</td>
<td>• All hands meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONS?