Enhancing graduate student experience by accelerating collaborative research: A positive feedback loop

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Universities have an opportunity to enable a greater number of university-based researchers to partner deeply with problem-solvers in non-university portions of the research ecosystem, focusing on impactful projects that are intended to simultaneously discover new knowledge and address societal problems. These projects are termed “highly integrative basic and responsive” (HIBAR). Beyond their core goals, HIBAR projects also offer valuable experiential opportunities for a wide range of early-career researchers, leading to many different career paths.

This arrangement creates a positive feedback loop - as HIBAR-experienced early-career researchers become established, they can help co-create more HIBAR research collaborations that in turn create new HIBAR research opportunities for the next generation of researchers. Actions are underway to encourage a significant increase in HIBAR research within universities over the next 10 years. In light of these developments, it will be important to optimize the resultant positive career impacts for early career researchers.