

SUMMARY

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is an association of federal agencies and academic research institutions that work collaboratively to streamline the administration of federally sponsored research. The FDP began in 1986 as the Florida Demonstration Project and on October 1 of this year we will have grown to membership of over 150 institutions and 10 Federal agencies as members of Phase VI. The National Academy of Science's Government-University-Industry-Research Roundtable is the neutral convener of the FDP. Some of the notable accomplishments of the FDP directly related to reducing administrative burdens are contained in my written testimony.

The FDP's has been involved in efforts to reduce the administrative burdens facing institutions and principal investigators that receive federal funding to conduct scientific research for over 25 years. The FDP acknowledges the need for the federal government to ensure transparency, accountability and efficient use of federal research funding. But, the 26-percent cap on the reimbursement of administrative costs to universities has not kept pace with the growing regulatory burden. Since the imposition of the cap over 20 years ago, university research has been subject to over 80 new and revised regulatory requirements not including the extremely burdensome requirements associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding support.

In 2005 and 2012, the FDP conducted the Faculty Workload Surveys of principal investigators of federally-funded research to document the continuing impact of federal regulations and requirements on the research process. The results of both surveys were astonishingly similar: Researchers estimate that an average of **42% of their research time** associated with federally-funded projects is spent on meeting administrative requirements rather than conducting active research. These findings suggest that whatever progress may have been made in reducing administrative burdens over the years has been countered by the introduction of new requirements

The FDP is perfectly positioned to provide a forum and testbed for exploring reform that will benefit the nation. The FDP has successfully demonstrated efficient practices such as the expanded authorities, STAR METRICS reporting methodology and subawarding practices that streamline the administration of federal funding without compromising the stewardship of funds. With access to input and expertise from researchers, administrators, federal agency representatives, and other interested parties, the FDP can uniquely contribute to shaping a more efficient and effective research enterprise.