**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer:

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1. What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

Research Development Manager, 2 years

1. Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

UNC Chapel Hill, Cell and Molecular Physiology

1. Did you do a postdoc?

Yes, I did two, 2-year post-docs. My first post-doc was in lab that focuses on stem cell biology and biomedical engineering. I did a trimester of teaching A&P at the NC School of Science and Math then started my second post-doc in a biotechnology research and teaching position.

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

One thing that I love about research development is that every day is different. We work in the “ideas space” helping scientists develop ideas into highly competitive funding applications. What does this look like in action? Well, it depends on the situation. Most of my duties fall under the umbrella of large-scale proposal support. This leverages most of the skills I built during graduate school, post-doctoral training, and even my time in the classroom. Depending on the project, proposal support can include anything from resource connections to wrap-around project management support. A sampling of specific tasks includes: copy-editing, technical writing support, figures/graphic support, reviewer-style critical evaluation of a proposal, timeline development, and team science facilitation. Other duties include strategy development for individuals, upstream capture of emerging opportunities and distribution to campus, and managing internal pilot funding programs. It’s never the same day twice!

1. What are the keys to success in your career field?

Strong communication and science writing skills are absolutely essential to success in research development. Going hand in hand with these are project management skills, the ability to learn new things quickly and accurately, critical thinking skills, and the soft skills associated with

1. What were the most important factors in choosing your career path and current employer?

Like many in research development and research project management fields, I stumbled into this career path. In retrospect, things that helped convince me to transition away from the bench to a more keyboard and faculty-facing role are that

I found that I really like this kind of a fast-paced, project-based, and service-oriented environment. I also appreciate how it presents the opportunity to apply just about everything but the hands-on science skills I learned over nearly a decade of training – that usefulness is very appealing.

1. What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?

That’s a great question for my boss! I would rather not speculate as to what aspects of my training led to my hire.

1. What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

Jobs like these are highly variable and designed to fit specific needs of an organization. Depending on where you are in your scientific training and how that aligns with different positions in world of research support roles. My advice for job seekers is to reach out to individuals who have the type of jobs you are looking for and ask for an informational interview to learn more about their career and job.

1. How is the work/life balance in your career field and how much of a factor was that in your career choice?

Over a long-time frame, work/life balance for the is quite good in this field. Short-term, things can vary based on deadlines and specific demands of projects.