Traditional Academic Model

One that our primary mentors are very familiar with, thus making them excellent guides to advancement.

However...
Non-academic careers are no longer “alternative”

Due to the increasing number of PhDs and a steady, low-turnover academic job market, 75-80% of PhD scientists do not follow the “traditional” academic model.
Thus your academic mentors may not be fully equipped to assist you in pursuing a non-academic career.

This gap in training was recognized by the NIH years ago.

They developed the BEST model to ready PhDs for a variety of non-academic careers.
NIH BEST: Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training

Thus far, the BEST model has been adopted by 17 universities with enormous success.

The model is based around 3 key tenets:

• **Motivation & Accountability:** Regular meetings serve as deadlines for students to accomplish career exploration goals, and peer successes motivate others to act.

• **Knowledge & skill building:** Trainees can share knowledge about upcoming events, job postings, emerging careers, or career planning strategies. Peer group meetings also provide a safe place to practice communication skills and professionalism.

• **Confidence:** PhDs and postdocs build connections with others facing similar challenges and empower one another.
Tulane University: STEM Non-Academic Career Society

1. Transferable Skills workshops:
   - Hands-on development of desirable skills that are not part of traditional scientists’ training
   - Format: presentation by experts & hands-on workshop with peers

2. Non-academic career paths
   - Invited speaker events
   - Format: Informational interviews with experienced professionals & hiring experts followed by networking reception

3. Collaborative events with other graduate STEM focused groups:
   - BMS Career Development
   - Law and Business School
   - WiSE
   - OGPS

This is where we fit in with our plan to organize and host…
Transferable Skills for Science PhDs

- Time management
- Written communication
- Ability to gather & interpret information
- Decision-making & Problem-solving
- Oral communication
- Ability to learn quickly
- Project management
- People management
- Basic business knowledge
Non-Academic Career Paths for Science PhDs

- Policy & advocacy
- Communication
- Writing & editing
- Entrepreneurship
- Government
- Non-profit/NGO
- Industry & Biotech
- Consulting
- Outreach
- Law & IP
To begin your career investigation journey:

1. Take a science career survey at myidp.sciencecareers.org

2. Join our Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/tulane.snacs

3. Attend our events

Thank you!