

# Finding Your Academic Voice

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**CFAES**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
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# Hierarchy of Academic Expertise and Autonomy

Educator 1 – Replicate Others' Work; Local Participant; Supervised

Educator 2 – Replicate and Expand; Local Leadership; Limited Autonomy

Educator 3 – Contribute and Create; Statewide Leadership; Limited Authority

Educator 4 – Conducts Applied Research; National Presentations and Leadership; Represent Extension to External Audiences;

# Hierarchy of Expertise and Autonomy, continued

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Assistant Professor – is afforded the academic authority to select and interpret knowledge in teaching, select and design scholarly activities that will contribute to the body of knowledge in one's field, and contribute as an expert in service activities, is given evaluative authority over the academic work of those at lower ranks

Associate Professor – Has demonstrated excellence in the areas described above (shorthand: excellence in teaching, Research, and Service); Evidence of a developing reputation for excellence within one's field

Associate Professor – Sustained record of excellence, significant body of nationally or internationally recognized scholarship, leadership in service

# Academic Voice – Element #1

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So, a major element of your academic voice is the depth of your content expertise and your ability to evaluate academic knowledge in ways that advance a discipline's body of knowledge.

# Faculty Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities

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Central Functions of Higher Education

Declaration of Principles – 1915

“to promote inquiry and advance the sum of human knowledge, to provide general instruction to students, and to develop experts for various branches of the public service” (Joughini, pp. 163-164).

Faculty generate and disseminate knowledge to peers, students, and external audiences. \* implementation/use through service

# **Prioritization/definitions of generation, dissemination, and use of knowledge**

Expectations to participate in creating new knowledge lead to an emphasis on generation of knowledge (publish or perish)

1993, the Wingspread Report “noted the shortcomings of undergraduate education and failure of higher education to prioritize appropriately an emphasis on effective pedagogy”

1990, 1996 The Scholarship of Discovery, Integration, Application and ultimately, the Scholarship of Engagement

# **Which brings us to academic voice of a tenture track Extension faculty member**

Scholarship of Discovery,  
Scholarship of Integration  
Scholarship of Application

# Academic Voice – Element #2

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A second major element of your academic voice is your ability to show or demonstrate the impact of your work

Either by using it to extend theory, generate new knowledge

Or

By using it to educate (students, citizens) and/or using it to solve problems create a robust and productive society.



# The Practical Challenge: How do you showcase your Extension academic voice?

Creating the framework for understanding:

Presentation of a systematic integration of teaching,  
research, and service activities

Narratives

Themes

Quality Indicators

Others?