Experiences from the Trenches of “Hard Money”

Michelle Fennessy, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor
The Ohio State University
College of Nursing
Fennessy.6@osu.edu
My Background

• PhD in Nursing
  – University of Illinois at Chicago
  – CV Outcomes Research

• Post-Doctoral Fellowship
  – UC Davis
  – Gordon Moore Fellow

• Assistant Professor
  – Center for Complex & Critical Care
  – Tenure track position (six year tenure clock)
Day to Day Life:
College of Nursing

• State Institution
• Percentages: 50% research/40% teaching/10% service – tenure requirements
• Research Responsibilities
  – Writing Grants
  – Institutional Contracts
• Two (2) classes taught per year (contractual)
  – Course prep (new course) - large responsibility
  – Email correspondence with students, grading, mentoring - time consuming
Why I Took This Job

• Concern about pressures for funding
• Preference for tenure track position in academia
• University resources
• Department chair invested in success of junior faculty during interview
• Good benefits and salary
• Inexpensive cost of living in Ohio
• Enjoy teaching/mentoring
Benefits

• Independence/flexibility
• Mentorship opportunities
• Local funding opportunities (institutional, state, departmental)
• "Less" pressure for funding/funding type
Challenges

• You may be the resident expert
• Advising/mentoring is a major responsibility
• Little time for research in light of heavy teaching responsibilities
• Research environment can make funding challenging
• Research mentors are at other institutions
• Limited opportunities for collaboration with other faculty members
• Difficult to focus due to limitations/responsibilities
Every Position Has Its Challenges

- Live and learn but consider advice
- Quality of life vs. “Successful Career”
- You can make it work – how efficient is the process?
- What is important to you?
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Mentoring