

Incorporating Evaluation into RII Projects

EPSCoR National Meeting

November 8, 2007



Panel Members

- **Joanne Tornow**, Division Director (Acting),
BIO/MCB, NSF
 - Role of Evaluation at NSF
- **Connie Kubo Della-Piana**, Program Evaluation
Manager, OIA, NSF
 - EPSCoR Evaluation in Context
- **Kirk Minnick**, Evaluator for New Mexico NSF
EPSCoR Project, Minnick and Associates, Inc.
 - Identifying Strategies for EPSCoR Evaluation



Why is Evaluation Important?

- Maximize value of investments
 - Learn what works, what doesn't
- Inform planning for the future
 - Have goals been accomplished?
- Responsibility to US taxpayer

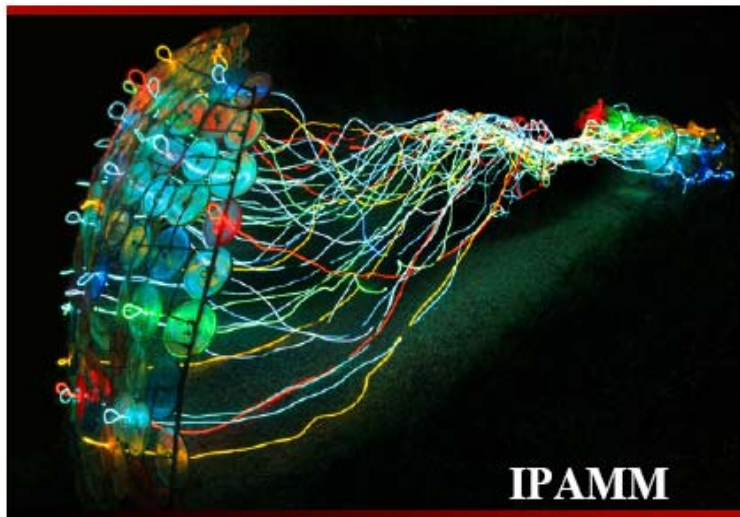


How NSF Evaluates Itself

- Internal Evaluations
 - Government Performance and Results Act
 - Program Assessment Rating Tool
 - Performance and Accountability Report
 - Self-Study Reports
 - Annual Merit Review Report
 - Impact of Proposal and Award Management Mechanisms



IPAMM Report



*Impact of Proposal and Award
Management Mechanisms*

Final Report

August 1, 2007



National Science Foundation

- How do NSF's practices related to proposal and award management impact the external community?
- How do the practices and policies of NSF's PIs and their institutions affect NSF?



How NSF Evaluates Itself

- External Evaluations
 - Committees of Visitors
 - Advisory Committees
 - AC/GPA
 - Third Party Evaluations
 - Projects
 - Programs



What NSF Evaluates

- Progress in meeting **Strategic Goals**
 - Outcomes
 - Discovery
 - Infrastructure
 - Learning
 - Process
 - Stewardship



Need information on outcomes from grantees



NSF Reports Results to:

- White House
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Congress
- National Science Board
- External NSF Community
- General Public



NSF EPSCoR Evaluation

- Demonstrate value/effectiveness of EPSCoR
- Evaluation Conceptual Framework
 - Three regional workshops held in 2006, obtained input on goals, expectations, activities, outputs and outcomes from EPSCoR jurisdictional leaders
 - Proposed a common format for collecting data and information from all jurisdictions
- EPSCoR 2020 Workshop
 - Identified six strategic priorities for enhancing EPSCoR



Current Status

- New RII Solicitation includes requirement for an Evaluation and Assessment Plan as part of the proposal, to include:
 - Metrics to assess and evaluate impacts and achievements, measure progress toward developing strength to address scientific issues of regional/national importance
 - Independent, external review and evaluation



Goal for Today's Panel

- Facilitate ability to respond to evaluation requirement by:
 - Providing information about program evaluation
 - Identifying strategies for evaluation
 - What can we learn from the experiences of other programs?
 - What can we learn from the experiences of other EPSCoR projects?

