

**ATE Evaluation:
Getting to the Next Level
November 17 - 18, 2005
Sheraton National Hotel
Arlington, VA**

Background

A pre-workshop survey of participants uniformly demonstrated the need for Center PIs and evaluators to gain a stronger understanding of NSF expectations and requirements for Center evaluation. Sub-themes included the desire for more effective and efficient evaluation methods which would fill NSF requirements as well as add value to the Center. Current evaluation methods are primarily focused on numbers of courses, students, graduates, programs, and partners.

The NSF ATE program would like the Centers to show a wide influence and a strong return on investment. The evidence should be stronger than a collection of anecdotes and higher quality than the aggregate of the numbers currently reported by the Centers. The specifics of the exact evidence needed for a strong argument for continued funding are not currently clear. In view of the NSF ATE mission, there is a particular interest in tracking the impact of the Center program graduates on the productivity of advanced technology industries in America.

Primary Workshop Activities

NSF ATE representatives, Center PIs, and evaluators will

- Explore possible components of the evidence of Center influence, success, and return on investment.
- Hear selected guest speakers with useful evaluation models.
- Examine current and potential strategies to capture this higher quality evidence.
- Consider some feasible higher level evaluation methods which correlate to their specific Center purpose and maturity level.
- Articulate the perceived barriers/obstacles and discuss possible solutions.

Expected Outcomes from the Evaluation Workshop

1. Greater alignment on evaluation needs between the Center PIs, NSF ATE representatives and Evaluators
2. Shared understanding of the need for higher quality evidence of Center influence and success
3. Familiarity with evaluation models to achieve higher quality evidence
4. Awareness of new or expanded inquiries, methodologies and evidence for individual Centers

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 16

7:30 pm - Optional, informal gathering, Potomac Lounge, Sheraton National Hotel

Thursday, November 17

Galaxy Ballroom, 16th floor

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions Lynn Barnett, Vice President for Academic, Student and Community Development, AACC Barbara Olds, Division Director REC and ESIE, NSF
9:00 a.m.	ATE Evaluation: Past, Present, Future Gerhard Salinger, Co-Lead Program Officer, ATE Program, NSF
9:30 a.m.	The Next Level: Project/Center Center Strategies and ATE Program Strategies
10:30 a.m.	The Components of the Next Level
11:20 a.m.	New Models for High Quality Evaluation Speakers: Toni Hodges, Principal, TH and Company Norena Badway, Principal, Higher Education Evaluation & Research Group, University of the Pacific Gerard Closset, Principal, Closset Consulting
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Data and Methodologies for the Next Level
3:30 p.m.	Barriers and Obstacles
4:30 p.m.	Remarks - Dan Litynski, Acting Division Director, DUE, NSF Summary
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Reception - 16th Floor Foyer

Friday, November 18

Galaxy Ballroom, 16th floor

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Agenda, Comments
8:45 a.m.	Solutions and Possibilities
10:30 a.m.	Coordinating the Plan
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Coordinating the Centers and ATE Program
2:00 p.m.	Next Steps and Final Review
2:30 p.m.	Workshop Evaluation
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn