SP@ISU Strengthening the Professoriate

What are Broader Impacts and Why are They Important?*

The Project Description must contain a discussion of the broader impacts of the proposed activities. Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through the activities directly related to research projects, or through activities that are complementary to the project. NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to the achievement of societal relevant outcomes. Such outcomes include:

- Full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities in STEM
- Improved STEM education and educator development at any level
- Increased economic competitiveness of the United States
- Improved well-being of individuals in society
- Improved national security
- Increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology
- Development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce
- Increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others
- Enhanced infrastructure for research and education

Resources for Researchers

- Workshops—Opportunities to learn more about broader impacts and resources on campus that have expertise in these areas.
- Catalog of Programs—A comprehensive listing of programs on campus that work in areas of broader impacts and information on how faculty can effectively partner with them.
- Broader Impacts Information—Informational links and recent literature that supports aspects of broader impacts.
- Consulting—Assistance in exploring areas of broader impacts of interest to faculty and in identifying opportunities.

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Iowa State's Broader Impacts Resource • www.spisu.iastate.edu