SP@ISU is a single point of contact for faculty, postdoctoral associates, and advanced graduate students in STEM to gain knowledge in developing quality Broader Impact plans, and facilitates connections between researchers and resources to develop and implement these plans. The goal of SP@ISU is to strengthen the professoriate by enabling professional development in STEM, while promoting and enhancing a diverse community of scholars and learners.

* Build on current NSF programs to increase efficiency and effectiveness of ISU programs to broaden participation in STEM
* Create a clearinghouse of programs, resources, information, and network of people to assist and guide in the development of a Broader Impacts culture at Iowa State University
* Facilitate and enhance the knowledge base needed by faculty to develop well-researched Broader Impacts plans as part of their research enterprise
* Develop protocols for assessment and evaluation of faculty Broader Impacts initiatives for inclusion in the promotion and tenure process

**What are Broader Impacts and Why are they important?**

"Proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation are evaluated through use of two merit review criteria, which all proposals must address explicitly. Experience shows that while most proposers have little difficulty responding to the criterion relating to intellectual merit, many proposers have difficulty understanding how to frame the broader impacts of the activities they propose to undertake." NSF Merit Review Broader Impacts Criterion: Representative Activities


**SP@ISU**

SP@ISU held a series of workshops to inform faculty, postdocs, and graduate students of Broader Impact opportunities and resources on campus. The first workshop was to recognize recent NSF CAREER grant awardees and highlight the process of attaining such an award. This was followed by two workshops that highlighted SP@ISU partners and informed faculty of resources they may utilize.

**NSF Broader Impacts Workshop: Sampling of Opportunities**

Presenters: Faculty who have done extensive work in various areas of broader impacts. Topics included Broadening Participation, Broad Dissemination, and Benefits to Society.

**NSF CAREER Awards Workshop**

Recent NSF CAREER grant awardees were recognized. Executive Vice President and Provost Elizabeth Hoffman spoke of the prestige of such an award and two recent recipients spoke of their experiences from idea creation to proposal submission.

Focus Groups to Assess Faculty Needs

In the Fall of 2010, SP@ISU conducted a series of focus groups with program stakeholders (including program administrators and all levels of faculty in STEM) to determine their knowledge of current programs, their views on Broader Impacts, and their strategies for enhancing efforts across programs.

Major Needs Established by the Focus Groups Included:

- Faculty lack awareness of existing programs on campus
- Faculty lack knowledge on Broader Impacts criteria
- Faculty want a centralized campus resource for developing Broader Impact plans

Social Network Analysis: Importance of Statistics Faculty

A graph showing the major connections between NSF-funded ISU PIs from 2002-2011. Red nodes indicate ISU faculty from the Department of Statistics. Consider how many blue nodes would no longer be connected to the main component if the red nodes were removed. The names associated with the nodes have been removed for anonymity.

**Combined REU Evaluation Project**

SP@ISU has partnered with Survey and Behavioral Research Services (SBRS) to provide a central place on campus that can support REU evaluation as well as pool resources from programs across campus to increase the assessment capability of any individual program. This project offers ISU the capacity to create a larger database of students who participate in summer research programs and track them longitudinally.

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Mariko Chang, External Evaluators

Sandra Norvell, Internal Evaluators

Lisa Larson, Liberal Arts and Sciences

Susan J. Lamont, Agriculture and Life Sciences

Karen Constant, Engineering

Katherine Bum, Human Sciences

College Equity Advisors

Kristen Constant, Engineering

Lisa Larson, Liberal Arts and Sciences

Susan J. Lamont, Agriculture and Life Sciences

Katherine Brum, Human Sciences

Evaluators

Jason Pontius, Internal

Mariko Chang, External

PI Team

Sharron Quisenberry, PI

Bonnie Bowen, Co-PI

Diane Rover, Co-PI

(ISU) Institutional Research and Planning

(INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION)

(NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION)

(INNOVATION THROUGH HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION)

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(NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION)

(Evaluation)

(National Science Foundation)

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