SP@ISU provides and coordinates opportunities and resources to assist faculty as they develop broader impacts plans and integrate broader impacts activities into their research programs. Postdoctoral research associates and advanced graduate students also participate as they prepare their professional credentials for the professoriate. SP@ISU fosters collaboration and integration across projects and programs, and it is advancing the conversation on faculty rewards and recognition for broader impacts work. The results of these efforts will include more competitive NSF proposals, a new generation of faculty who integrate broader impacts work with their research, and increased participation of those traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)—all outcomes that will strengthen the professoriate.

The SP@ISU office is positioned in the Office of the Vice President for Research with support from the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost. College level leadership is represented on the Advisory Council which is comprised of the associate deans of research from the five STEM colleges as well as faculty and staff who have valuable experience and perspectives to advise the project. This internal campus-wide network uses bottom up and top down approach to develop a commitment to broader impacts. This approach is modeled after the work of the ISU ADVANCE program.

SP@ISU worked with a linguistics researcher to develop resources for faculty to assist in writing broader impacts statements for NSF proposals. BI sections in NSF proposals were analyzed and a workshop was held to present findings from the research.

Faculty Development and Resources

Faculty development is an emphasis of SP@ISU. Workshops, webinars, and event co-sponsorship help advance the knowledge, skills and abilities of faculty. Brochures, newsletters, and the website provide information about available resources, programs and expertise.

Campus programs and other potential broader impacts partners come together to consult with each other and to discuss options for collaboration with faculty at various SP@ISU events.

SP@ISU provides networking opportunities for NSF-funded programs via workshops, a newsletter, and through planned activities and events to increase awareness and the potential for collaboration among STEM programs. SP@ISU has also created an on-line searchable database of ISU programs to allow faster and easier ways for faculty to find programs on campus to partner with for their broader impacts plans.

NSF-funded Campus Programs

SP@ISU provides networking opportunities for NSF-funded programs via workshops, a newsletter, and through planned activities and events to increase awareness and the potential for collaboration among STEM programs. SP@ISU has also created an on-line searchable database of ISU programs to allow faster and easier ways for faculty to find programs on campus to partner with for their broader impacts plans.

Sustainability of SP@ISU through New Grants Hub

A newly created Grants Hub provides faculty and staff across all colleges and disciplines with a broad range of services and training related to research development and administration. The Hub is designed to support various aspects of planning and submitting proposals, including developing the next generation of faculty who will be expected to lead interdisciplinary research efforts. Services include:

- Training programs to develop researchers’ knowledge.
- Help Desk to serve as the point-of-contact for proposal writing and project management related resources.
- Central repository of resources on a range of topics including broader impacts, outreach, data management planning, program evaluation, and assessment.
- Databases on institutional information required by certain proposals.

National Network

Institutional integration and infrastructure for broader impacts has emerged as a national issue relevant to educators, researchers, and university administrators across the country. SP@ISU team members were part of an NSF award that led to the creation of the National Alliance for Broader Impacts (NABI). The goal of NABI is to create a community of practice that fosters the development of sustainable and scalable institutional capacity and engagement in broader impacts activity.

NSF EAGER: STEM Faculty Engagement, Institutional Environment and Transformative Research (STEM-FIT) Project

SP@ISU team members joined with researchers in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering are studying factors affecting the engagement of STEM faculty and the contributions of their work. The STEM-FIT project will accomplish two main interwoven activities. The research group will design and conduct a study to find out what will help make faculty happier, as well as more productive, competent, autonomous, and related to the institution. They will also convene a workshop to discuss recent work by other scholars, share best practices, and develop recommendations for action by institutions of higher education to foster faculty success.

Grant No. HRD-0963584, July 2010 - 2016

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. HRD-0963584. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.