SP@ISU – A Resource for Faculty Researchers
SP@ISU Program: Who We Are

• Funded by five-year award from NSF Innovation through Institutional Integration (I³) program in 2010.
  – Sharron Quisenberry: Principal Investigator, Entomology
  – Diane Rover, Director and co-PI, Electrical & Computer Engineering
  – Bonnie Bowen, co-PI, Ecology Evolution & Organismal Biology
  – Megan Heitmann, SP@ISU Program Assistant

• Website: www.spisu.iastate.edu
What Are Broader Impacts?

• Activities that contribute to the achievement of **societally relevant outcomes**:
  – Broadening participation of underrepresented groups
  – Improved STEM education and educator development
  – Increased public scientific literacy and public engagement
  – Improved well-being of individuals in society
  – Development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce
  – Increased partnerships with industry and others
  – Improved national security
  – Increased economic competitiveness of the US
  – Enhance the infrastructure for research and education
Broader Impacts in the NSF Merit Review Criteria

- NSF Grant Proposal Guide, January 2013
- Two merit review criteria:
  - Intellectual Merit
  - Broader Impacts
- The Project Summary and the Project Description need to include both components
- Annual and Final Reports must address activities related to the Broader Impacts criterion.
  - Have you accomplished your broader impacts? Address assessment and impact of broader impacts, if possible
How Does SP@ISU Help You?

• Support faculty to develop effective broader impacts (BI) activities in NSF proposals and research programs.

• Facilitate connections between researchers and resources.
  – Increase faculty, post-doc, and graduate student awareness of and involvement with BI activities, resources and programs.
  – Provide assistance to achieve broader impacts using available resources and programs.
Writing Effective BI Plans

• What makes a good broader impact plan?
  – The project has to fit with the research. Proposing something totally separate from the research doesn't make sense.
  – Take advantage of your local strengths. Partner with existing programs -- just make sure you make it clear that you are contributing something.
  – Don’t just list activities: describe the impact of activities, describe a strategy
  – Include details and budget (as in the research plan)
Writing Effective BI Plans

• Use Resources:
  – Contact a Program Officer to see what is expected in your discipline (permanent NSF staff)
  – Broader Impact Wizard (URL is on your handout)
    • Audience, Budget, Activity, Project Description, Evaluation
    • http://coseenow.net/wizard/
  – Attend workshops and request consultations.
  – Use the SP@ISU Website to find partner programs at ISU. www.spisu.iastate.edu
Why are broader impacts important?

• **Accountability for funding from Federal granting agencies**
  – Research should have impact on society
  – Broader impacts activities enhance impact

• **Importance of broader impacts activities to success of faculty careers**
  – Funding success:
    • Excellent Intellectual Merit necessary
    • Strong broader impacts plan necessary also
How Are SP@ISU and ISU Supporting Broader Impacts?

• Broader impacts as a component of faculty work
  – SP@ISU communicates with Department Chairs, Associate Deans, Deans, Provost
  – Development of a broader impacts culture at ISU
  – Communicate broader impact successes with leaders and legislators

• Institutionalize resources to help faculty develop and carry out broader impacts plans
  – SP@ISU Website
  – National partnerships with institutions with similar goals
Learn more: Broader impacts resources at www.spisu.iastate.edu
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- Partner Programs:
  - K-12 education
  - Science communication
  - Graduate education
  - Post-doc mentoring
  - Evaluation
  - Many others

- Events – future and archived

- Resources – BI Wizard, brochure, handouts

- Consultation with SP@ISU staff
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