Evaluation and Monitoring in the ISE Program

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ISE PI Meeting
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ISE Project Monitoring System

- Web-based system
  - Online system currently being piloted with 50 projects
  - Designed by NSF to document, monitor, and analyze the portfolio of ISE deliverables and outcomes
  - Completed by individual principal investigators—with assistance by evaluators and other partners
  - Information to be collected from all future ISE projects

- Collects data throughout a project’s lifecycle
  - Baseline
  - Annual
  - Closeout
Information collected by the ISE Project Monitoring System

- **Baseline information about the ISE Project**
  - Lead organization and partners
  - Characteristics of anticipated audience
  - Deliverable types—e.g., media, exhibit, website
  - Anticipated impacts, indicators, and study designs

- **Annual data on implementation and impacts**
  - Update baseline data (e.g., add new impacts)
  - Challenges encountered
  - Number served
  - Extent to which anticipated impacts/indicators were attained
  - Lessons learned and future plans
How does the ISE Project Monitoring System differ from FastLane?

- **FastLane**
  - Common reporting format across all NSF programs
  - Most FastLane information is provided in a narrative format that cannot be easily sorted or aggregated across projects

- **ISE Project Monitoring System**
  - Items are specific to the ISE program
  - Data can be easily aggregated and disaggregated
    - Number of media projects targeting underrepresented minorities
    - Types of impacts/indicators and study designs for exhibit project
  - Technical assistance from Westat
Frequently asked questions about the online system

- I’ve completed the baseline collection—is this all the system is collecting?
- I don’t know all the impacts that my project may accomplish. Can I enter more at a later date?
- I’ve entered impacts that my project is no longer addressing. Am I still responsible for meeting them?
- The system doesn't get at what's important. How can I report what I think is most important or interesting about my project?
- Might this turn out to be a punitive system?
Next steps

- Continue contacting projects from the pilot study via telephone to resolve issues
- Have some projects re-submit data about impacts/indicators
- Final approval of impacts/indicators by NSF program officers
- Open the annual collection *(Fall 2008)*
- Open the *baseline* collection for new projects *(Fall 2008)*
Breakout session

- Present preliminary findings from the pilot study
- Discuss impacts and indicators in more detail
- Answer questions about the ISE Project Monitoring System
- Obtain feedback about how best to train applicants and PIs about impacts and indicators
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