AGEP: *What Works? What Next?*

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The Story So Far...

- 23 “Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate” in STEM
- Ten years old
- Part of a continuum: LSAMP, Bridge to the Doctorate, AGEP
  - Then??
- Of interest to Congress:
  - “Premier NSF program for graduate education and the professoriate”
  - Increased interest in outcomes for the professoriate
Evaluation

- Ongoing process
  - Measurable outcomes in context of program goals
  - Overview evaluation under way
    - AAAS
    - AIR

- Core practices—key to sustainability

- Participant perspectives
  - Needed
  - Useful

- Different set of questions
Core Practices

• What are they?
• Which really have worked?
• Which have been effective/not effective?
  ♦ Within Alliance
  ♦ Within NSF
• Which are sustainable?
• How can they be strengthened over time?
  ♦ Programmatically
  ♦ Financially
• What next steps can emerge from them?
A Series of Conversations

- Not an evaluation
- No outcomes impacting existing programs
- No threat to existing funding or to probability of future funding
- No intent to eliminate AGEP
- Rather, make a good product better
Procedure

• Six alliances (lead institutions)
  - Northeast AGEP (UMass Amherst)
  - New York AGEP (SUNY Stony Brook)
  - CUNY MAGNET STEM (CUNY)
  - Mississippi AGEP (Univ. of Mississippi)
  - Rice-Houston AGEP (Rice University)
  - Iowa AGEP (Iowa State University)

• Selections based on diversity in
  - Geographical distribution
  - Size
  - Students served
Procedure

• Small groups of visitors
  • Three to four
    ▪ Depends on nature, composition of specific alliance
  • 1½ to 2 days
  • Meet at lead institution only—not site visit
  • Completed by Fall 2009
Participants

- Faculty members
- Program administrators
- Campus project administrators
- University leadership
- Evaluators
- Students
- Others?
Expectations

• Candor!
  ◆ From Alliance
  ◆ From visitors
  ◆ From NSF
Outputs

- Oral debriefing
- Written report to NSF, shared with respective Alliances
- Overview report on collective impressions
Outcomes

• Advance Alliances
• Help NSF

Most important...
Strengthen the professoriate
“Without diversity there can be no excellence. Without excellence there can be no diversity.”

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