Panel - Addressing NSF Broader Impacts Criterion in a Curriculum Development Project

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Abstract - The goal of the session is to enable participants to develop a better understanding of the broader impacts criterion used in the NSF review process and, therefore, prepare proposals that are more responsive to this particular criterion.

TOPICS

The session will use interactive exercises to examine general and specific areas of activities for addressing broader impacts requirements and specific project activities in these areas. Participants will then apply these ideas as they review the broader impacts of a proposed project and suggest alternative activities to strengthen its broader impacts.

AGENDA

A brief introduction (10 minutes) will identify the session's goals and agenda. This will be followed by series of interactive exercises, lasting about 50 minutes, in which participants will share their ideas about various aspects of the broader impacts criterion and then hear reactions and suggestions from NSF program officers. The session will devote the next 50 minutes to a mock panel review of a proposed project and to suggestions for improvement. The last 10 minutes will be used for summarizing ideas developed in the session.

AUDIENCE

The session is designed for investigators that plan to submit educational proposals to NSF.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the close of the session, participants should be better prepared to provide an improved and comprehensive plan for addressing NSF's broader impact criterion in their proposals.

SUMMARY

Development of a sufficiently in-depth understanding of the broader impact criterion in the context of specific NSF programs and program tracks can only be achieved by getting participants to think through the process, develop tentative responses and receive immediate feedback concerning the merit of the responses. Sharing between the participants and the NSF program officers will allow greater depth and breadth of coverage of the elements noted above.

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