



# Impact of Using an External Evaluation Team

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NE-INBRE

INBRE PI and PC Meeting

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# Background

Evaluation required by initial BRIN RFA

New terms: Formative and Summative

Plan and surveys developed by JBT

Surveys conducted, data collected and  
interpreted by Administrative Core

Results:





# External Evaluation



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# Engagement

## INBRE Renewal – 2004

Presented DMD with the goals and objectives of the INBRE.

DMD designed the evaluation protocol and milestones for the program.

Yearly planning meeting.



# Responsibilities

Ongoing evaluation consultation with PI.

Serve in advisory capacity relating to all evaluation activities-

Research methodology, evaluation timeline, survey audience and sample selection

Attend all EAC and Steering Committee meetings.



# Evaluation Activities

Annual Surveys- track perceptions, attitudes  
and experiences

INBRE PUI Faculty

INBRE Scholars

Research Campus Mentors



# Evaluation Activities-con't

Interviews- attitudes, perception, relevance and impact

Campus Stakeholders- key campus administrators, economic development officials, business officers.

Exit interviews with graduating INBRE Scholars



# Evaluation Activities-con't

## Focus Groups

First and second year INBRE Scholars

Include External Advisory Committee

Members

Annual Meeting



## Useful Information

Adjustment to program based on information from surveys, focus groups and interviews:

Stipend level for INBRE Scholars-  
fairness and consistence between 1<sup>st</sup> and  
2<sup>nd</sup> year Scholars

Format of annual INBRE Meeting

Mentor selection



## Useful Information

Preparation of newsletters, annual reports,  
public awareness documents,  
Congressional presentations, summative  
reviews.

Mechanism for input.

Perspectives on program impact especially  
opportunities in industry



“My experience in research with the INBRE program has altered my career/education plan significantly. When I started out I wanted to develop software for small business, now I'm going to pursue a graduate degree in molecular biology and continue on with academic research.”

“This is a wonderful and life changing experience!” “Just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity. It was great working with all involved and I'm honored to have been a part of it.”

“...I don't think I would have continued my education had it not been for this program.



# Useful Information

## Intangibles:

All stakeholders have input.

Program leadership responds to and incorporate suggestions as appropriate.

Sense of community and ownership of the program by participants.

Confidentiality leads to critical feedback



# Challenges

- Long term tracking of students, especially professional students
- Keeping students in Nebraska



# Summary

- Critical input from professional team
- Formative evaluations have addressed concerns and helped to make the program better
- Summative evaluations bring all aspects of the program together