Evaluation through Project’s Lifecycle

- Planning
- Start up
- Modification
- Implementation
- Closure

Evaluation
Evaluation matters in proposal review

• Find a qualified evaluation early
• Engage your evaluator in proposal development
Planning

From “10 Helpful Hints and 10 Fatal Flaws: Writing Better Evaluation Sections in Your Proposals

by Liz Teles

former co-Lead Program Director for the ATE Program
Helpful Hint #1

“Identify an evaluator in advance; include his or her name and qualifications in the proposal.”
Planning

Fatal Flaw #1

“State ‘after we get the funding, we will develop an evaluation plan’ or that ‘the evaluation will be developed using the NSF User Friendly Guide to Project Evaluation.’”
Planning

• EvaluATE webinar on July 20
  – register at evalu-ate.org/events

• Evaluator directories
  – American Evaluation Association: eval.org
  – ATE Evaluator Directory: evalu-ate.org/community
Revisit & refine the evaluation plan to ensure information needs will be met.

**Start Up**

- **Formative Evaluation**
  How is the project doing and how can it improve?

- **Summative Evaluation**
  What is the quality and impact of the project?

- **Accountability**
  What was done, who was served, who contributed, what are the outputs?
Start Up

Accountability

Create a project vita

• Mission
• Goals
• Funding
• Activities
• Products
• Staff
• Students
• Contributors & collaborators
• Consultants

Evaluate promotes the goals of the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program by partnering with ATE projects and centers to strengthen the program’s evaluation knowledge base, expand the use of exemplary evaluation practices, and support the continuous improvement of education throughout the nation.

Goals

• To educate ATE principal investigators and their evaluators about evaluation
• To increase knowledge within the ATE community around evaluation issues
• To collect and disseminate useful dating findings about the ATE program to advance knowledge about ATE, technical education, and its evaluation

Funding

$206,082 over 4 years, beginning July 2009.

Staffing

2.5 FTE, not including contracted work

Center Activities: July 2008 to present

Webinars (consultancy topics, alphabetic)

Bennett, K., Behrman, A., Evergreen, S., & Wingate, L. (2010, September 1). Workforce needs assessment. [Webinar presented to National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education programs and evaluators.]


Evans, A. P., Evergreen, S., Salzberg, P., Weeks, M., & Wingate, L. (2010, March). Evaluation data: so you have to do a survey... [Webinar presented to National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education programs and evaluators.]

www.evaluate.org | 269/337/3888 | Western Michigan University

evalu-ate.org/about_us
Implementation

Look at goals and beyond

Consider some broader impact criteria ...

• To what extent is the project broadening the participation of underrepresented groups?
• To what extent is it enhancing the infrastructure for research and education?
Modification

Make time to review evaluation results and discuss how they might inform decisions about the project.
Closure

- Use lessons learned from the evaluation to shape your next endeavor/proposal
- Collaborate with your evaluator to present and publish on your innovation and its evaluation results