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EvaluATE’s Mission

EvaluATE promotes the goals of the ATE program by partnering with projects and centers to

- strengthen the program’s evaluation knowledge base
- expand the use of exemplary evaluation practices
- support the continuous improvement of technician education throughout the nation.

The ATE Program

With an emphasis on two-year colleges, the Advanced Technological Education program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our nation’s economy.

www.nsf.gov/ate
The ATE Program

“High-technology fields”
- Agricultural technology
- Biotechnology
- Chemical technology
- Cybersecurity
- Energy
- Marine technology
- Nanotechnology
- Telecommunications
- and more...

Types of Initiatives
- Projects
- National centers
- Regional centers
- Resource centers
- Professional development
- Curriculum materials development
- Program development
- Leadership capacity building for faculty
- Business & entrepreneurial skills for students
- Teacher preparation
- Research on technician education
To Learn More About ATE...

The ATE Survey

- Conducted annually since 2000
- Questions address:
  - Grantee characteristics
  - Collaboration
  - Organizational Practices
  - Materials development
  - Professional development
  - Program improvement
**Grantee Institutions**

- 2-year colleges or 2-year college systems: 71%
- 4-year colleges: 17%
- Nonprofit organizations: 7%
- Other: 4%

**Program Growth**

- Millions Awarded Annually

- 2001: $0
- 2002: $20
- 2003: $40
- 2004: $60
- 2005: $80
- 2006: $100
- 2007: $120
- 2008: $140
- 2009: $160
- 2010: $180
- 2011: $200
- 2012: $220
- 2013: $240
Evaluation in the ATE Context

3 ATE-Specific Intellectual Merit Criteria About Evaluation:

- Is the evaluation plan clearly tied to the project outcomes?
- Is the evaluation likely to provide useful information to the project and others?
- Does the project provide for effective assessment of student learning?

Evaluation in the ATE Context

1 ATE-Specific Broader Impacts Criterion About Evaluation:

- Will the project evaluation inform others through the communication of results?
The PI should establish claims as to the project's effectiveness, and the evaluative activities should provide evidence on the extent to which the claims are realized.

—2010 ATE Program Solicitation

Proposers are expected to have an evaluator IDENTIFIED IN THE PROPOSAL.
**Evaluation Opportunities with an NSF Program**

11/12/2010

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**Evaluation in the ATE Context**

What PIs look for in an evaluator:
- Content-area knowledge
- Community college experience
- Proximity

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**Our Approach**

- Help ATE grantees to be more sophisticated consumers of evaluation services and products
- Enhance evaluation knowledge and skills among current ATE evaluators
- Connect qualified evaluators with ATE grantees
The Need for Evaluators

NSF said we needed an evaluator. I had no idea what they meant.

How can I find an evaluator?
The Need for Evaluators

I have a friend in the Engineering Department. Can she be our evaluator?

The Need for Evaluators

Will you be our evaluator?
**Addressing the Need**

- Webinars, workshop, & print materials
- ATE Evaluation Community of Practice
- Evaluator Selection Guidelines
- Contract Template

**What You Can Do**

- Add yourself to the ATE Evaluator Directory
- Join our listserv
- Participate in our webinars
- Collaborate in developing and testing resources

www.evalu-ate.org/community