1

2

Introductions

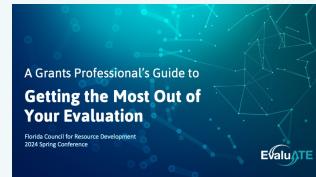**Megan**
López

Lori
Wingate

3

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grants No. 1841783. The content reflects the views of the authors and not necessarily those of NSF.

4

Materials

A Grants Professional's Guide to
Getting the Most Out of Your Evaluation
Florida Council for Resource Development
2024 Spring Conference

Slides

EvaluATE Resources for Getting Started with Your ATE Evaluation Post-Award

Additional Resources

Bit.ly/EvalFCRD

5

What are your **biggest challenges** in using evaluation in the post-award phase?

6

Session Overview

**Evaluation
Overview**

7

Session Overview

**Evaluation
Overview**

**Reporting on
Evaluation Findings**

8

9

10

Evaluation
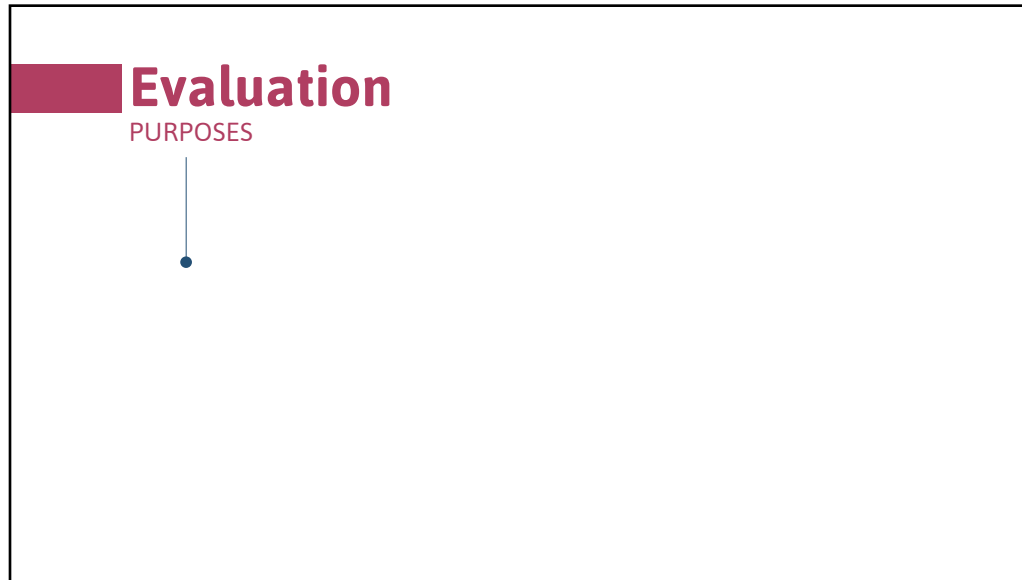PURPOSES

11

Evaluation
PURPOSES

Project improvement

12

Improvement
PURPOSE #1

- "The most important purpose of evaluation is **not** to prove, but to **improve.**"
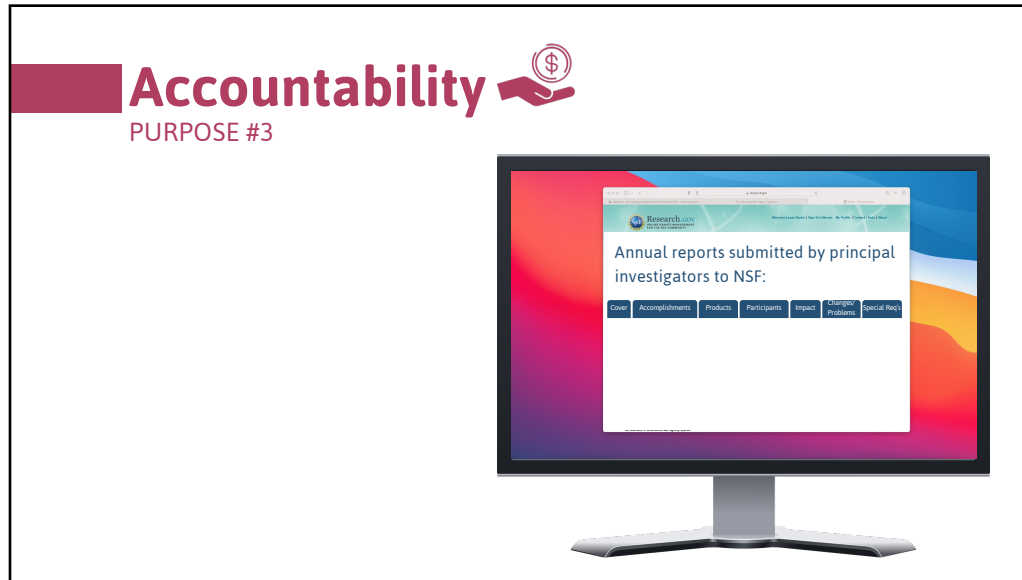
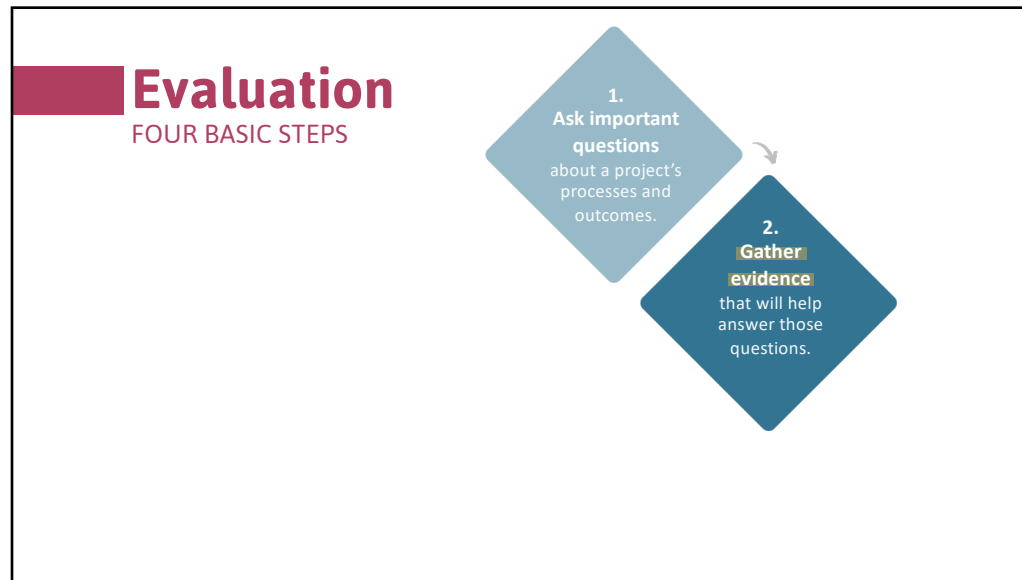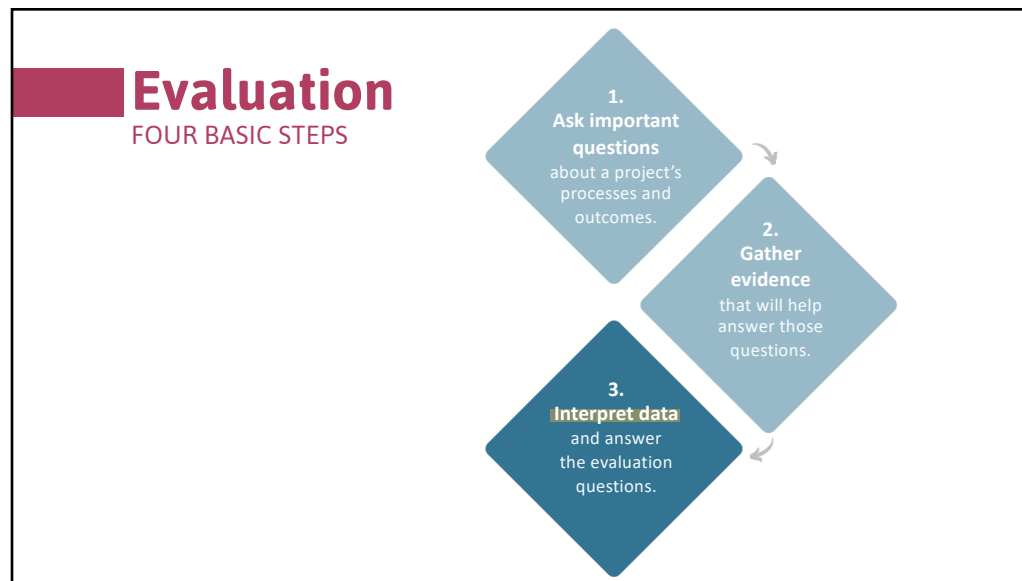# Evaluation
PURPOSES

Project improvement

Evidence

15

16

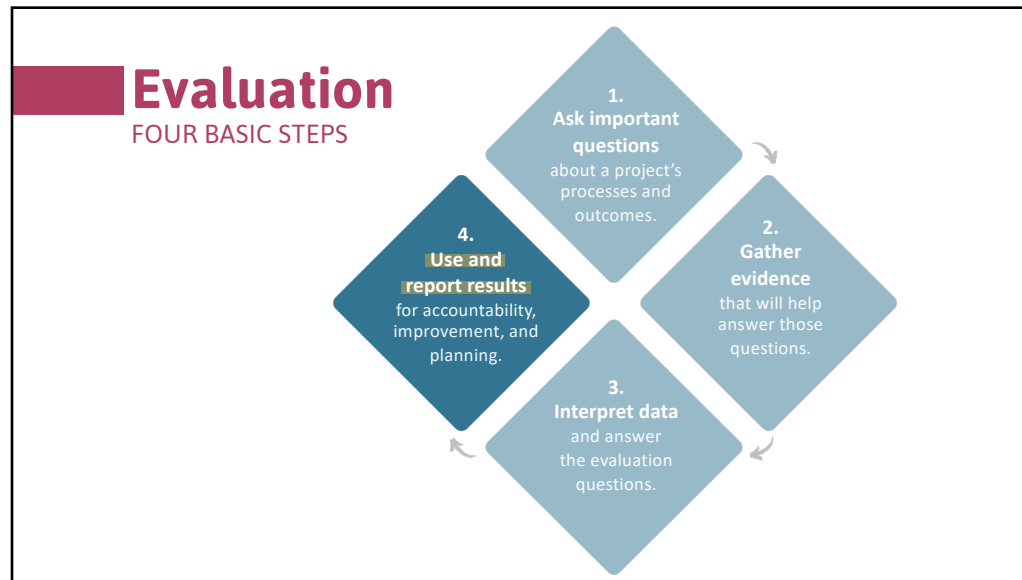## Accountability

PURPOSE #3

Annual reports submitted by principal investigators to NSF:

| Cover | Accomplishments | Products | Participants | Impact | Changes/ Problems | Special Req's |

17

Evaluation

FOUR BASIC STEPS

1. Ask important questions about a project's processes and outcomes.

18

Evaluation
FOUR BASIC STEPS

1. Ask important questions about a project's processes and outcomes.

2. Gather evidence that will help answer those questions.

19

Evaluation
FOUR BASIC STEPS

1. Ask important questions about a project's processes and outcomes.

2. Gather evidence that will help answer those questions.

3. Interpret data and answer the evaluation questions.

20

21

22

23

24

Using Evaluation from a Post-Award Grant

Reporting
There are many opportunities to incorporate evaluation findings while reporting grant results back to funders

25

Using Evaluation from a Post-Award Grant

Reporting
There are many opportunities to incorporate evaluation findings while reporting grant results back to funders

Planning
Evaluation findings can help you determine your next steps and justify future funding
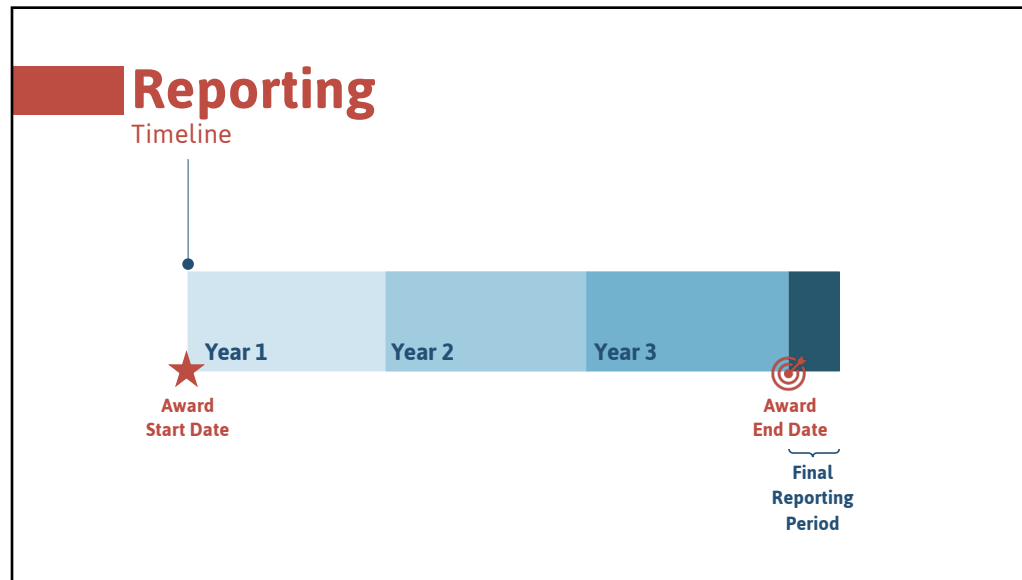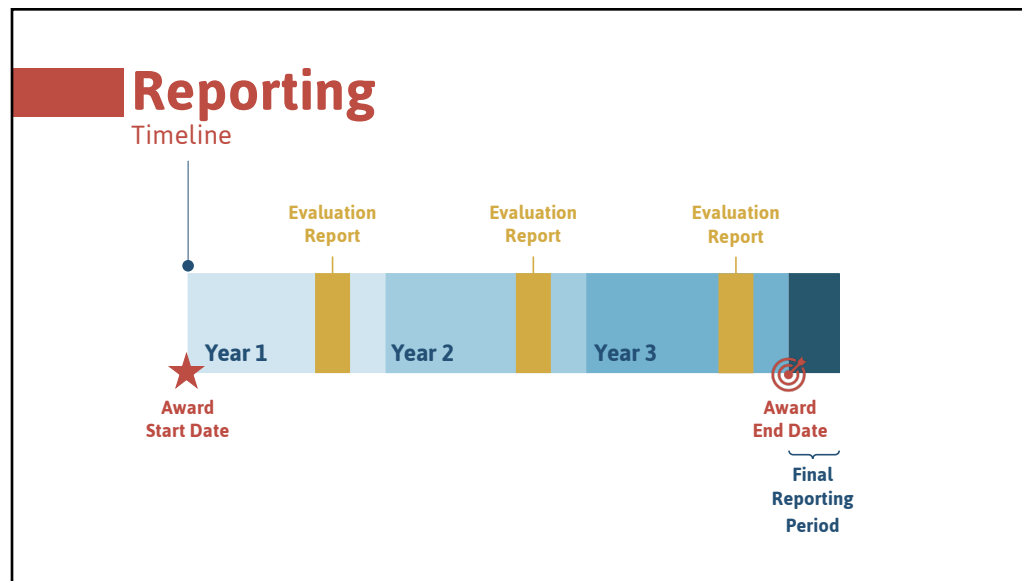
26

Reporting

27

Reporting

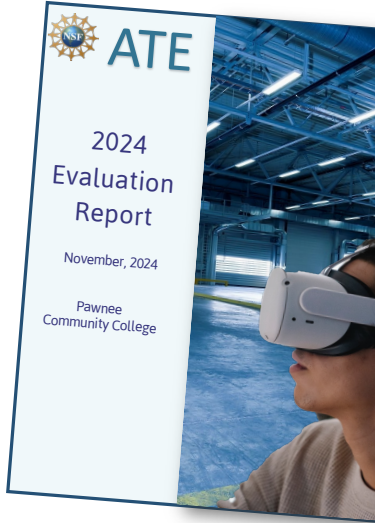**Evaluation Report**

28

29

30

31

32

Evaluation Report

What is it?
A report that details how the evaluation occurred, evaluation findings, and recommendations for the project.

Who leads development?
External Evaluator and/or Evaluation Team

ATE

2024
Evaluation
Report

November, 2024

Pawnee
Community College

33

Evaluation Report Takeaways

34

Evaluation Report Takeaways

Use it, don't lose it!
The primary audience for this is the project team, not the funder

35

Evaluation Report Takeaways

Use it, don't lose it!
The primary audience for this is the project team, not the funder

Content will vary by grant year
What gets reported here will vary by the grant's life cycle.

36

Evaluation Report Takeaways

Use it, don't lose it!
The primary audience for this is the project team, not the funder

Content will vary by grant year
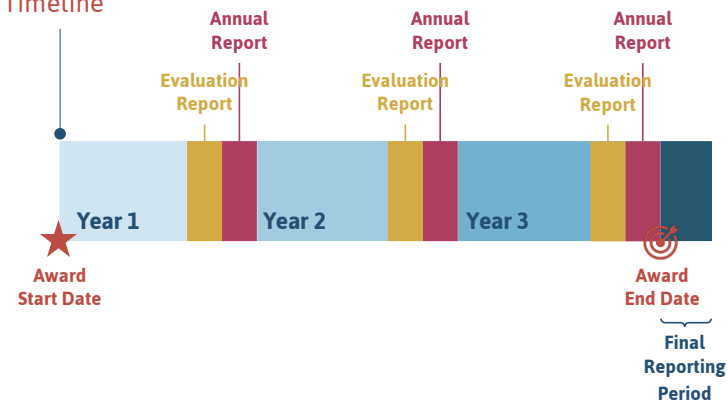What gets reported here will vary by the grant's life cycle.

Attach to your Annual Report
Although it's not explicitly asked for, your Program Officer will ask for it!

37

Reporting
Timeline

Annual Report

Annual Report

Annual Report

Evaluation Report

Evaluation Report

Evaluation Report

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Award Start Date

Award End Date

Final Reporting Period

38

39

40

41

42

Annual Report

Impact

└─ • What is the impact on…
  - principal or other discipline(s)?
  - human resources?
  - teaching and learning?
  - infrastructure (physical, institutional, or information)?
  - society beyond science and technology?

Annual reports submitted by principal investigators to NSF:

| Cover | Accomplishments | Products | Participants | Impact | Changes/ Problems | Special Req's |
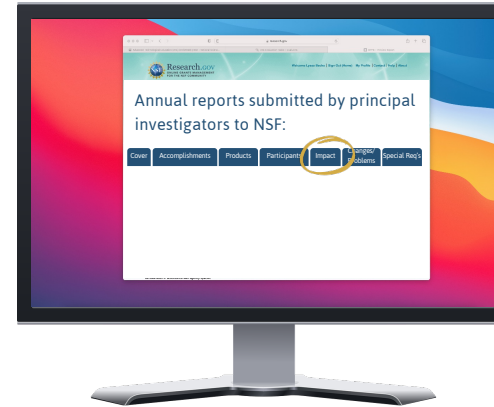
43

Annual Report Takeaways

44

Annual Report Takeaways

Ground statements in evaluation data
Your evaluation report is filled with great data!

45

Annual Report Takeaways

Ground statements in evaluation data
Your evaluation report is filled with great data!

Don't focus on looking "perfect"
Funders know that projects occur in the real world. It's ok if everything didn't go to plan!

46

Annual Report Takeaways

Ground statements in evaluation data
Your evaluation report is filled with great data!

Don't focus on looking "perfect"
Funders know that projects occur in the real world. It's ok if everything didn't go to plan!

Show how you're learning from evaluation
Funders are interested in how you're looking at thinking about, and acting on what is and isn't going well!

47

Let's Practice!

How would you use evaluation findings to report on these situations?

It's the end of your project's 1st year of a 3-year grant. The project is funded to develop and implement a new classroom curriculum designed to increase student retention and learning outcomes.

In your proposal, you had planned to develop the curriculum during Year 1 and offer it to students in Year 2. However, the development process has taken much longer than expected! Because of this, **it will not be ready until the start of Year 3.**

48

Accomplishments

In 2023, **100% of the planned instructional units were developed** and are now going through a process of testing. In total, **14 individuals were involved in curriculum development** including post-secondary faculty (6), high school educators (2), institutional officers (2), and external content experts (4). After initial testing, **students reported favorable engagement scores**, suggesting that, when launched, **this curriculum may lead to increased retention rates**.
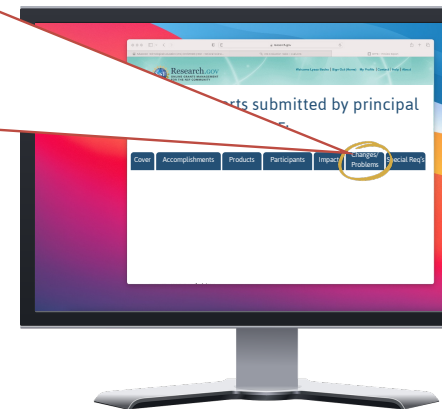
Annual reports submitted by principal investigators to NSF:

Cover | Accomplishments | Products | Participants | Impact | Changes/Problems | Special Req's

49

Changes/Problems

Actual or Anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them.

Initial testing of the curriculum resulted in lower-than-anticipated student learning outcomes. As a result, the project team plans to delay curriculum launch until the fall of 2025. In the coming year, **they will continue to refine and test instructional units where learning outcomes did not meet the minimum threshold for acceptable changes in knowledge.**

...rts submitted by principal

Cover | Accomplishments | Products | Participants | Impact | Changes/Problems | Special Req's

50

Let's Practice!

How would you use evaluation findings to report on these situations?

You were previously funded by NSF to to offer new courses to students. During this grant period, **you learned that students desired virtual course options**. You then received a second round of grant funding to develop and implement a 100% online program.

After 1 year of offering the online program, you were surprised to see learn that very few students enrolled, despite the initial interest.

51

Changes/Problems

Changes in approach and reason for change.

The project team was surprised to see that enrollment in the virtual program was lower than anticipated. **To examine this issue further, the evaluation team conducted interviews with students** enrolled in the virtual and in-person program. **They concluded that many students desired hybrid options.** After careful consideration, the project will **allocate resources to designing hybrid program offerings to students.**
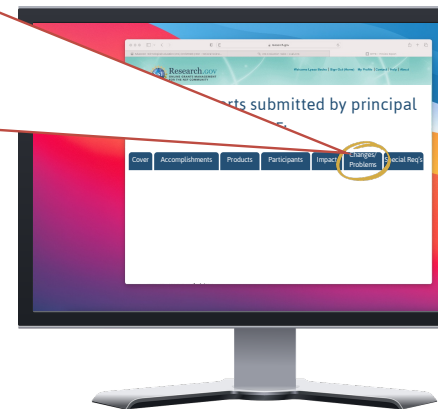
Cover | Accomplishments | Products | Participants | Impact | Changes/Problems | Special Req's
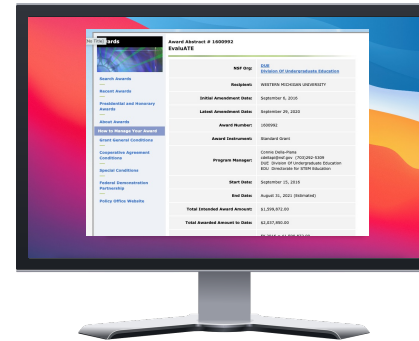
52

53
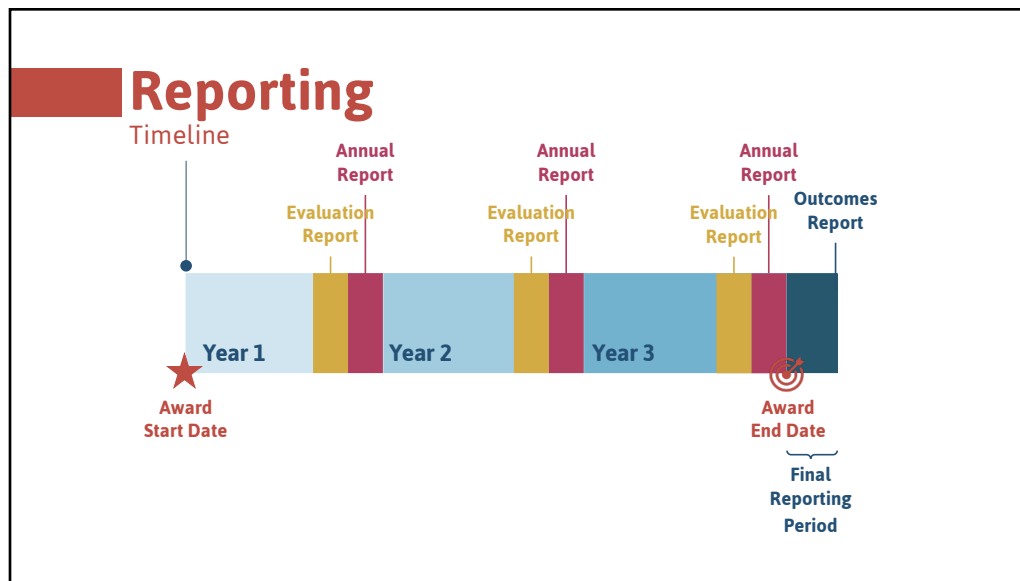
54

Outcomes Report

What is it?
A brief, public-facing summary on the nature and outcomes of your project.

Who leads development?
Project Staff

Outcomes Report Takeaways

Focus on impact, not outputs
Outputs will go in your final annual report.

Outcomes Report Takeaways

Focus on impact, not outputs
Outputs will go in your final annual report.

Celebrate your project's accomplishments
This is your chance to brag about the great work your project and its team accomplished!

Outcomes Report Takeaways

Focus on impact, not outputs
Outputs will go in your final annual report.

Celebrate your project's accomplishments
This is your chance to brag about the great work your project and its team accomplished!

This is the only public facing project report
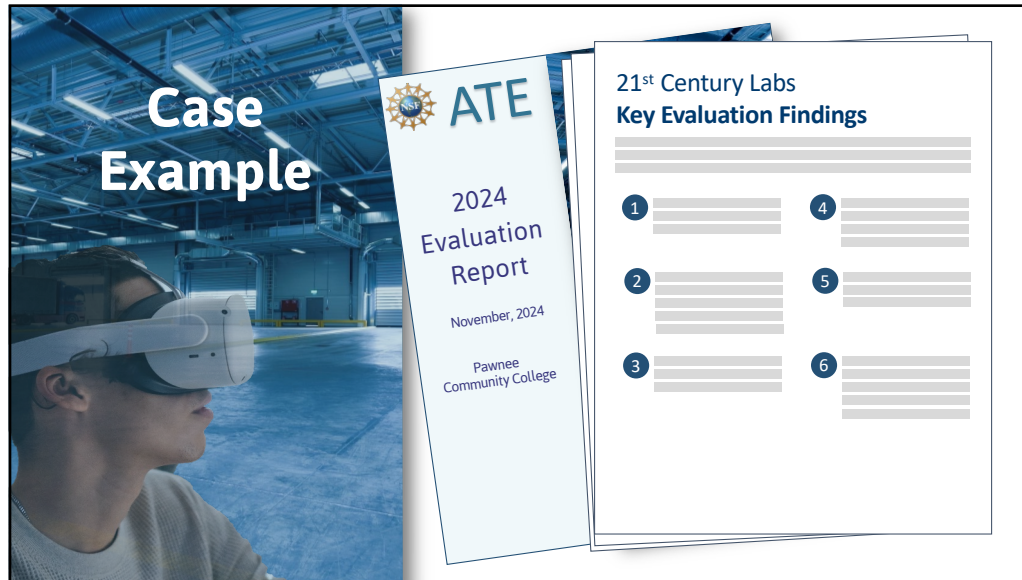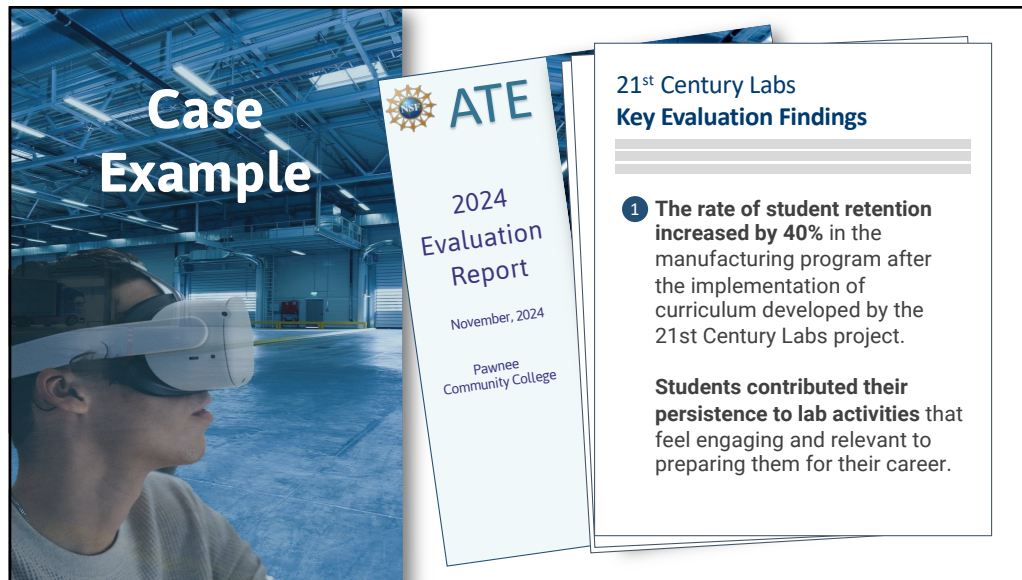Others seeking grants in a similar field may refer to your project for inspiration
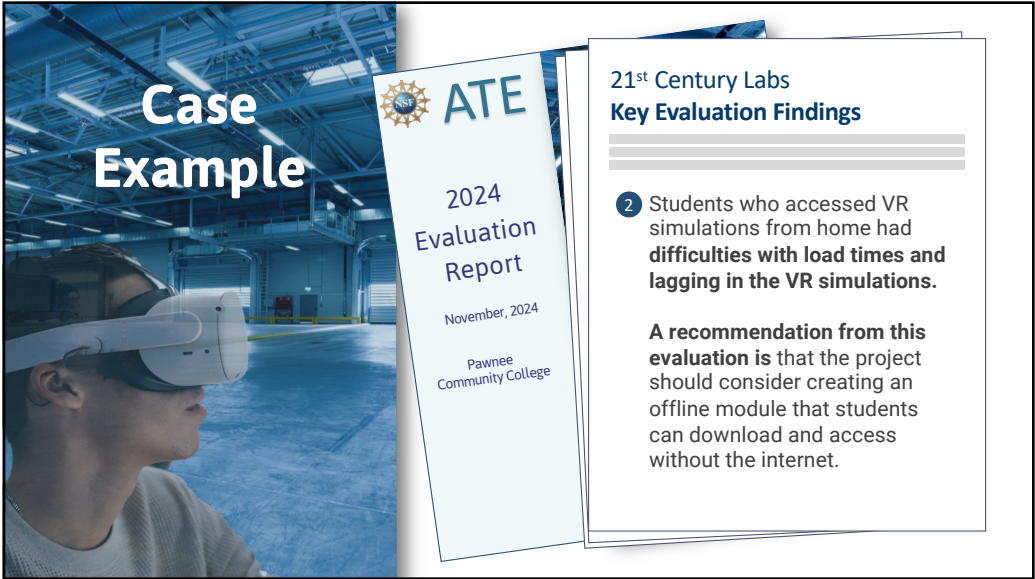
59

21st Century Labs

At Pawnee Community College

60

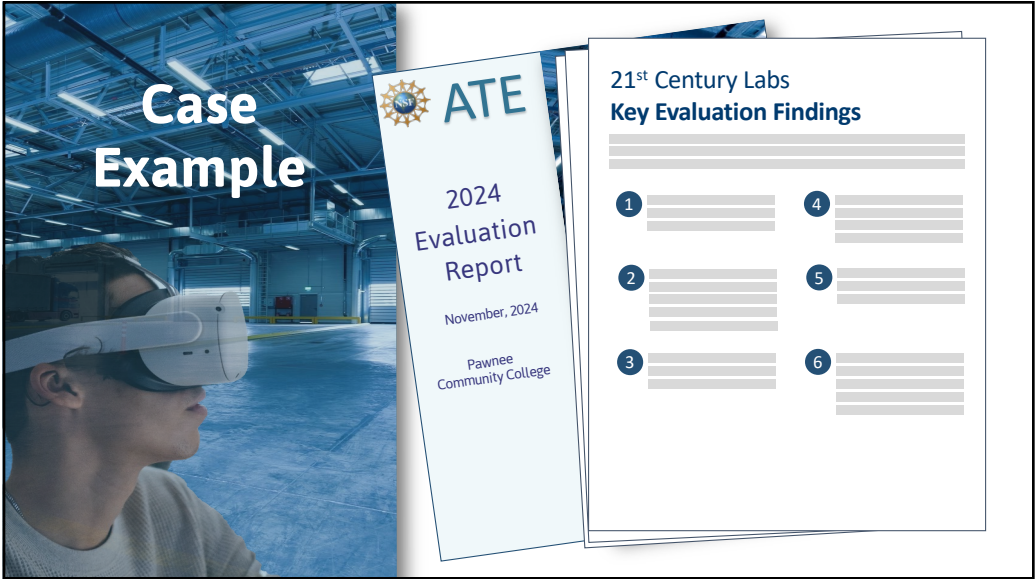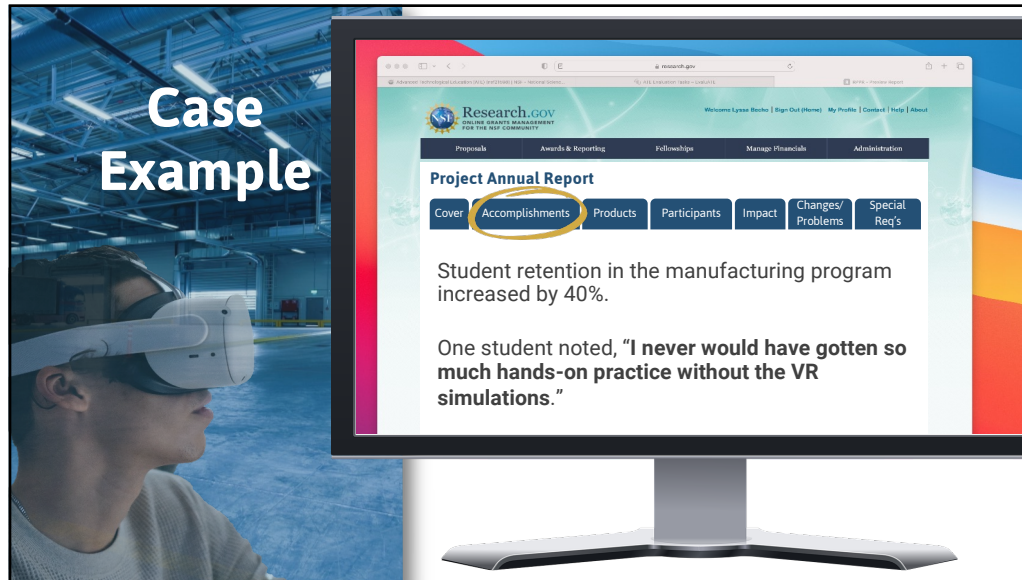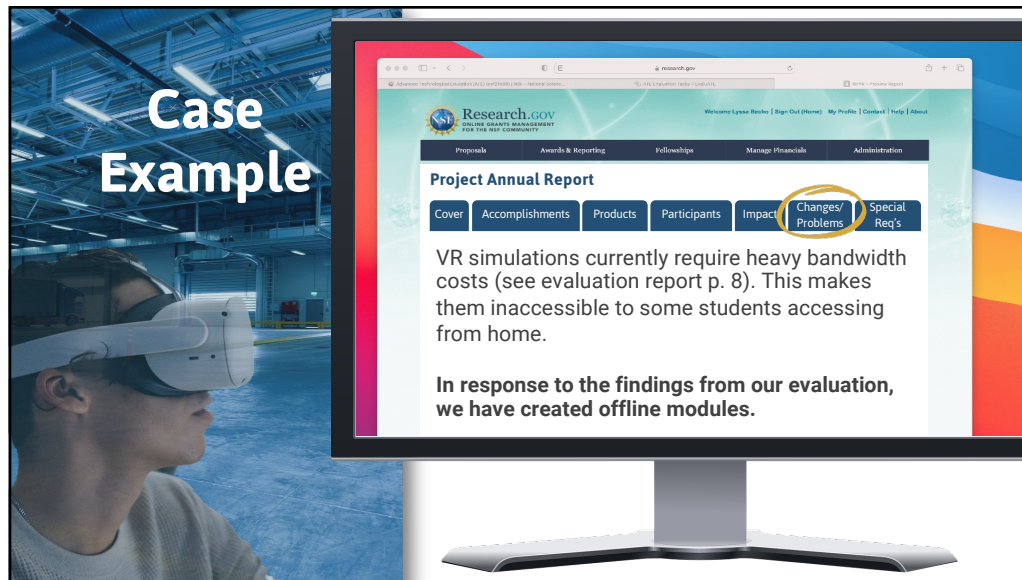61

62

63

64

65

66
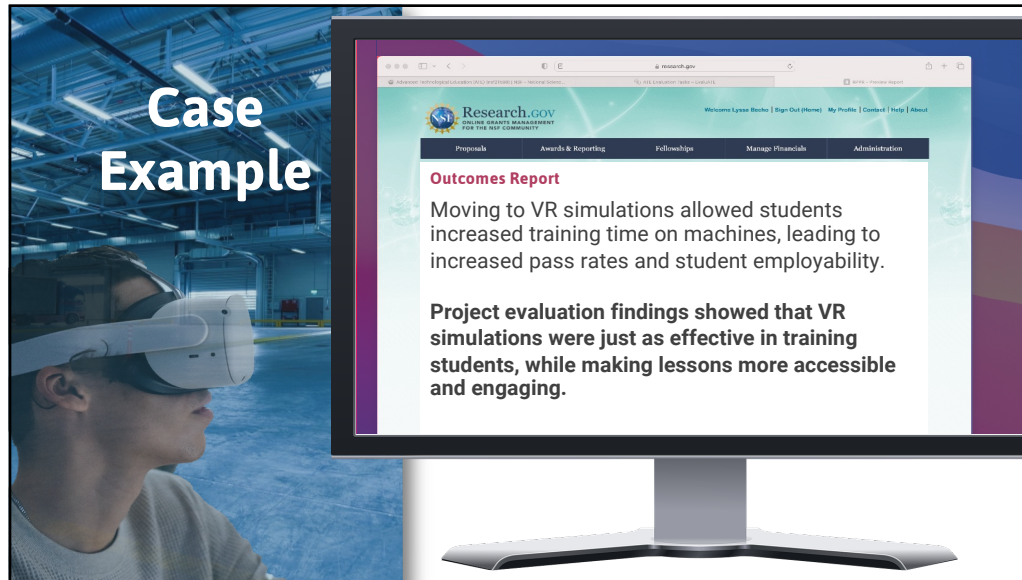
67

68

How can I use evaluation to inform future work?
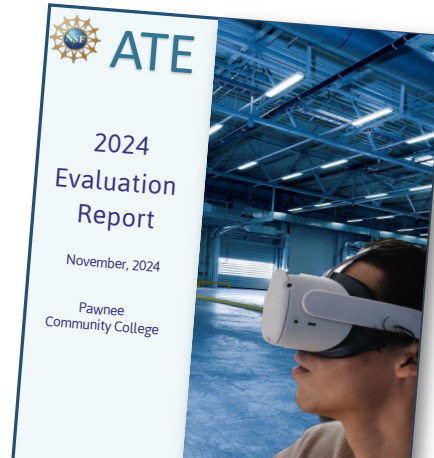
69

Planning

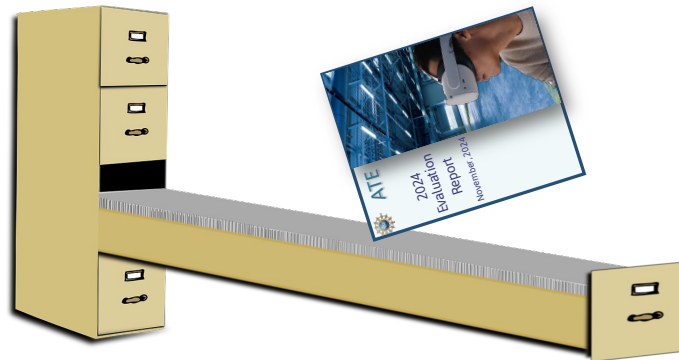Determining next steps

Justifying future funding

70

Determining Next Steps

71

Determining Next Steps

72

Reflecting on Next Steps

73

Reflecting on Next Steps

Bring the team together
Incorporating different perspectives in the reflection and planning period can help illuminate next steps.

74

Reflecting on Next Steps

Bring the team together
Incorporating different perspectives in the reflection and planning period can help illuminate next steps.

Write down your reflections
Recording your team's reflections and the data that informed those reflections will help keep ideas straight.

75

Reflecting on Next Steps

Bring the team together
Incorporating different perspectives in the reflection and planning period can help illuminate next steps.

Write down your reflections
Recording your team's reflections and the data that informed those reflections will help keep ideas straight.

Consider these reflection questions…

76

- **What worked well about this project?**
- **What opportunities are there for improvement?**
- **Should this work continue?**
- **What new ideas came out of this work?**
- **What do students want/need?**
- **Who did this project serve? Did this project serve who we planned to serve?**

Bring the team together
Incorporating different perspectives in the reflection and planning period can help illuminate next steps.

Write down your reflections
Recording your team's reflections and the data that informed those reflections will help keep ideas straight.

Consider these reflection questions...

77

Justifying Future Funding

78

Justifying Future Funding

Results from Prior NSF Support

79

Justifying Future Funding

Results from Prior NSF Support

"This subsection must contain specific outcomes and results including metrics to demonstrate the impact of the project activities."

80

Justifying Future Funding

Results from Prior NSF Support

"This subsection must contain specific outcomes and results including metrics to demonstrate the impact of the project activities."

Intellectual Merit
advancement of knowledge

Broader Impacts
benefit to society

81

Justifying Future Funding

Results from Prior NSF Support

Our goal was to increase the number of women who successfully earned an associate's degree in welding. We used funding to develop the Women in Welding program and support team building and outreach efforts by them. **Institutional data reveal that since this project was started, the number of women in the welding program has almost tripled** from 12 (2006 – 2010), of which only 8 graduated to 34 (2011 – 2016), of which 17 have already graduated and 5 have only one semester left. The **17 who already have is double the number of female students who graduated from the program between 2006 – 2010**.

82

Justifying Future Funding

Results from Prior NSF Support

How have you leveraged results from a previous grant to justify future funding?

83

QUESTION
BREAK

84

Thank you!

Lori Wingate
Lori.wingate@wmich.edu

Megan López
Megan.lopez@wmich.edu

85

CONNECT WITH US

On LinkedIn
bit.ly/eval-li

Through our website
evalu-ate.org

86