SP@ISU
Strengthening the Professoriate

SP@ISU provides and coordinates opportunities and resources to assist faculty as they develop broader impacts plans and integrate broader impacts activities into their research programs. Postdoctoral research associates and advanced graduate students also participate as they prepare their professional credentials for the professoriate. SP@ISU fosters collaboration and integration across projects and programs, and it is advancing the conversation on faculty rewards and recognition for broader impacts work. The results of these efforts will include more competitive NSF proposals, a new generation of faculty who integrate broader impacts work with their research, and increased participation of those traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)—all outcomes that will strengthen the professorate.

Resources for Researchers
- Workshops—Opportunities to learn more about broader impacts and resources on campus that have expertise in these areas.
- Catalog of Programs—A comprehensive listing of programs on campus that work in areas of broader impacts and information on how faculty can effectively partner with them.
- Broader Impacts Information—Informational links and recent literature that supports aspects of broader impacts.
- Consulting—Assistance in exploring areas of broader impacts of interest to faculty and in identifying opportunities.

Sustainability of SP@ISU through New Grants Hub
A newly created Grants Hub provides faculty and staff across all colleges and disciplines with a broad range of services and training related to research development and administration. The Hub is designed to support various aspects of planning and submitting proposals, including developing the next generation of faculty who will be expected to lead interdisciplinary research efforts. Services include:
- Training programs to develop researchers’ knowledge.
- Help Desk to serve as the point-of-contact for proposal writing and project management related resources.
- Central repository of resources on a range of topics including broader impacts, outreach, data management planning, program evaluation, and assessment.
- Databases on institutional information required by certain proposals.

Faculty Development and Resources
Faculty development is an emphasis of SP@ISU. Workshops, webinars, and event co-sponsorship help advance the knowledge, skills and abilities of faculty. Brochures, newsletters, and the website provide information about available resources, programs and expertise.

SP@ISU worked with a linguistics researcher to develop resources for faculty to assist in writing broader impacts statements for NSF proposals. BI sections in NSF proposals were analyzed and a workshop was held to present findings from the research.

NSF-funded Campus Programs
SP@ISU provides networking opportunities for NSF-funded programs via workshops, a newsletter, and through planned activities and events to increase awareness and the potential for collaboration among STEM programs. SP@ISU has also created an on-line searchable database of ISU programs to allow faster and easier ways for faculty to find programs on campus to partner with for their broader impacts plans.

National Network
Institutional integration and infrastructure for broader impacts has emerged as a national issue relevant to educators, researchers, and university administrators across the country. SP@ISU team members were part of an NSF award that led to the creation of the National Alliance for Broader Impacts (NABI). The goal of NABI is to create a community of practice that fosters the development of sustainable and scalable institutional capacity and engagement in broader impacts activity.

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