

National Science Foundation
Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers
NSF I/UCRC 2005 Annual Meeting

January 12-14, 2005
Key Bridge Marriot, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA

Notes from Evaluators Meeting Part II
Friday, January 14, 2005, 9:20 - 10:45am

B.J. Meadows joined us by phone again.

The objective of this session was to review the purposes and content of the Evaluators' semi-annual meetings and to reach a consensus concerning the desirability of having two meetings per year (January in conjunction with the Directors' Meeting, and separately in June).

There was a consensus that two meetings a year are valuable and that they serve multiple goals: update on the I/UCRC program vis-à-vis the Evaluator's role; exchange best practices; share innovations; present research (outcome, process data; special projects); train new evaluators; improve quality, performance. Further, the Evaluator meetings add value to the centers via improved effectiveness of Evaluators. However, there was concern that the format/agenda of the June meeting should be carefully planned much like that of the January Directors' Meeting.

It is clear that there is a range of skills/experience among the set of Evaluators, and that meeting content should address the needs of both 'experienced' and 'new' Evaluators. There was also concern about the need to formally address the issue of paying expenses for these meetings.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Two meetings per year. January with the Directors, and in the summer, probably June.
2. Efforts need to be undertaken to delineate the source of center funds to cover Evaluators' expenses for these meetings.
3. Focus on dynamic development of center organizations.
4. Far more planning must go into determining the format and agenda of the June meeting, in order to meet the Evaluators' needs for continuing education.

At the Meeting's final feedback session moderated by Eric Sundstrom, a suggestion was made to have a project whereby the Directors would evaluate the Evaluators and/or their function in the I/UCRC program. Several Evaluators at this session agreed to explore how this might be accomplished.