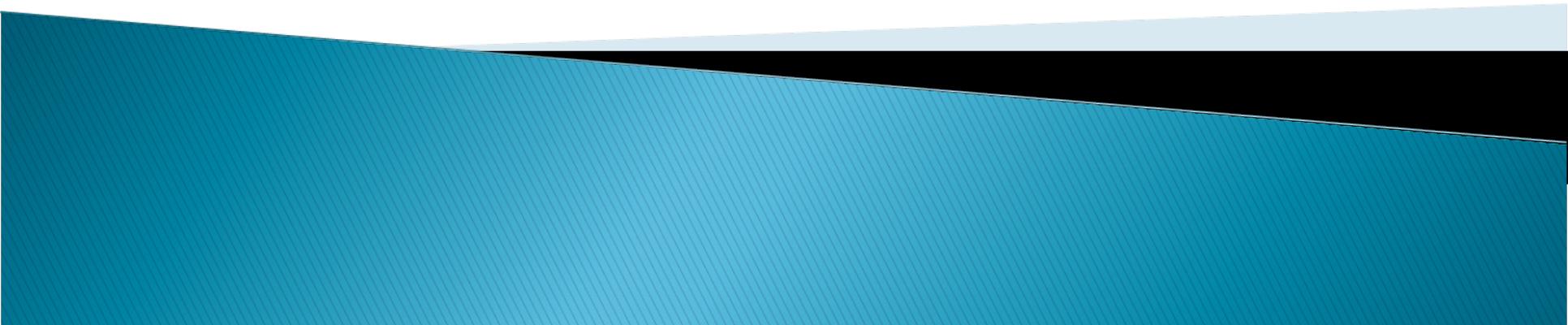


The Home Team on the Home Court

EPSCOR RII SITE VISIT

MAIJA M KUKLA
NSF EPSCOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Goals and Objectives



- ▶ **Evaluate progress** the EPSCoR RII team has made since the start of the award towards improving research infrastructure in the state (jurisdiction) and building a research capacity, which has the potential to become internationally and nationally competitive in the proposed area(s) of science/engineering.
- ▶ The specific focus of the third year site visit is to ensure that the RII has appropriate **long range research and education plans and demonstrate visible progress** towards achieving their proposed goals.
- ▶ The site visit will also evaluate if the RII project has in place the **appropriate leadership, management and organizational structure** to implement these plans.
- ▶ An important issue throughout all site visit sessions will be **value added** aspects (the whole should be greater than the sum of the parts).

Expected Outcomes

- ▶ Showcase achievements
- ▶ Offer facilities tour
- ▶ Present plans for the out years of the RII project
- ▶ Demonstrate vision for the future of the research and education enterprise in the state
- ▶ NSF will receive an expert recommendation regarding evaluation of the research, education, and outreach program, and other activities, which were proposed by PDs in the RII project and funded by NSF

EPSCoR Jurisdiction

NSF

Format and Logistics



- ▶ A two-day event during the third or fourth year of RII award
- ▶ The site visit will include
 - One – one-and-a-half day of presentations by the EPSCoR team,
 - Panel discussions with presenters,
 - Informal lunch with students and postdocs,
 - Poster session and discussions with students and faculty,
 - Meetings with administration, state representatives, governing committee
 - Executive closed sessions of the panel and NSF staff
- ▶ Short debriefing with the EPSCoR RII leadership team
 - The goal of the debriefing is to share the panel impressions and concerns and suggest possible improvement directions
- ▶ Meals
 - The working breakfast and lunch for each day should be provided by the host EPSCoR organization, however, the panelists and the NSF staff have to reimburse the cost of the meals (in accordance with the NSF policy)
- ▶ Executive sessions
 - Will take place in a secure room, the panelists and the NSF staff should have computers on site to prepare the report; the computers will be provided by the host

Agenda

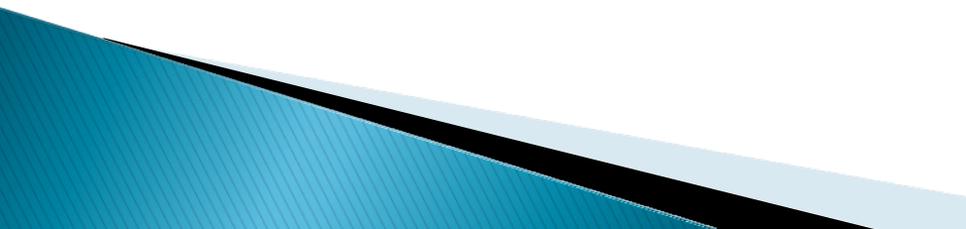


- ▶ The typical agenda will be sent to the Project Director, who will adjust and modify it as appropriate and populate it with titles of presentations and names of presenters
- ▶ Presentations may be open to all EPSCoR participants of the state and relevant organizations
- ▶ Executive sessions are closed and no other people but the panelists and the NSF staff are invited

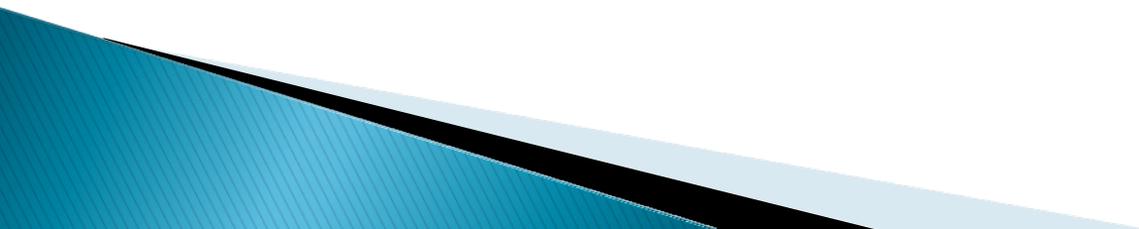
Suggested Agenda: Day 1

7:45 – 8:45	Briefing of Site Visit Panel and Continental Breakfast
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome (institutional and state representatives, etc)
9:00 – 9:45	<i>Project Director's Overview</i>
9:45–10:00	Discussion
10:00–10:45	<i>Technical Presentation 1: Research Focus Area 1</i>
10:45–11:00	Discussion
11:00–11:15	Break
11:15–12:00	<i>Technical Presentation 2: Research Focus Area 2</i>
12:00–12:15	Discussion
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch with students and postdocs (no faculty invited)
1:15 – 1:30	Break

Agenda: Day 1 Afternoon

- 1:30 – 1:50 *EPSCoR Specific Presentation 3: Diversity*
 - 1:50 – 2:10 *EPSCoR Specific Presentation 4: Workforce Development*
 - 2:10 – 2:30 *EPSCoR Specific Presentation 5: Cyberinfrastructure*
 - 2:30 – 2:50 Discussion
 - 2:50 – 3:00 Break
 - 3:00 – 3:20 *EPSCoR Specific Presentation 6: External Engagement*
 - 3:20 – 3:40 *EPSCoR Specific Presentation 7: Evaluation and Assessment*
 - 3:40 – 4:00 *EPSCoR Specific Presentation 8: Sustainability*
 - 4:00 – 4:30 Discussion
 - 4:30 – 4:45 Break
 - 4:45 – 5:45 Executive Session for Site Visit Team
 - 5:45 – 6:15 Site Visit Panel meets with EPSCoR Leadership Team
 - 6:15 – 7:00 Poster Session (limited number of posters)
 - 7:00 – 9:00 Dinner Meeting of Site Panel (closed session)
- 

Agenda: Day 2

- 8:00 – 9:00 Executive Session / Continental Breakfast /
Director's response to feed-back and questions
 - 9:00 – 9:30 Meeting with the State Governing Committee
 - 9:30 – 10:45 *Facilities Overview and Lab Tour*
 - 10:45–11:15 Discussion with EPSCoR Leadership Team (if needed)
 - 11:15 – 3:30 Executive Session of Site Visit Panel – Report writing
 - 3:30 – 4:00 Debriefing with EPSCoR Director and Leaders
 - 4:00 Adjourn
- 

Site Visit Report



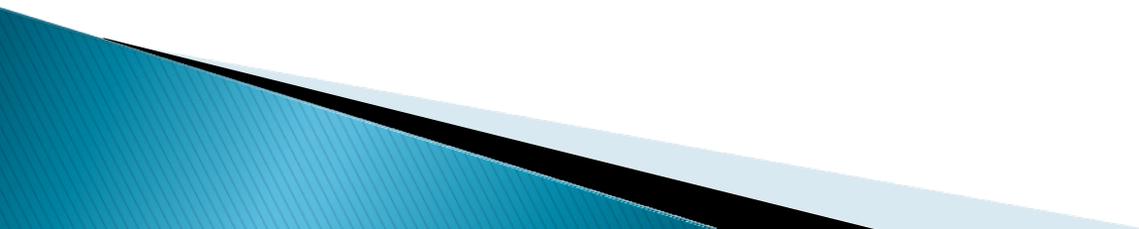
- ▶ The report is written jointly by the external site visit team
- ▶ The report will concentrate on strengths and weaknesses
- ▶ The report will provide specific recommendations
- ▶ RII team will have an opportunity to strengthen the weaker aspects during the rest of the award period



Site Visit Report Structure

- A. Introduction Date of visit, purpose of site visit, members of team (external and NSF staff), etc.
- B. Panel Recommendation The panel recommends continued/discontinued support for the XX EPSCoR RII Project ...
- C. Summary Evaluation
 - a) *Intellectual Merit*
 - b) *Broader Impact*
- D. Research Program
 - a) *Research Focus Area 1*
 - b) *Research Focus Area 2*
- E. EPSCoR Specific Elements
 - a) *Integration of Research and Education*
 - b) *Diversity*
 - c) *Workforce Development*
 - d) *Cyberinfrastructure*
 - e) *External Engagement*
 - f) *Evaluation and Assessment*
 - g) *Sustainability Plan*
 - h) *Jurisdictional Support, Management, and Budget*
 - i) *Role of the State-wide Governing Committee*

What to expect after the Site Visit?

- ▶ The cognizant NSF Program Officer will send the final recommendation together with the site visit report to the Project Director
 - ▶ The relevant actions should be taken, such as a modification of the budget for the rest of the award, changes in research, education, and outreach, directions, changes in management, etc.
 - ▶ The EPSCoR RII team will have their chance to take appropriate actions in response to the site visit recommendation and describe them in the upcoming annual report
- 

Implementation plan

- ▶ Third or fourth year of the RII award
 - ▶ Significant results are expected
 - ▶ Plenty of time to improve or modify
 - ▶ The EPSCoR site visits will be introduced during FY2011, which corresponds to the third year of the FY08 awards
 - ▶ NSF will ask jurisdictions to suggest possible dates for the site visit and
 - ▶ NSF EPSCoR office will provide guidelines in advance
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As always

- ▶ If you have questions,
 - Ask us early
 - Ask us often