

INTRODUCTION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) sponsored a two-day workshop to discuss issues of culturally responsive educational evaluation as they pertain to Native Americans on April 25-26, 2002, at the Holiday Inn in Arlington, Virginia. Invited participants included 20 evaluation and education experts with a variety of tribal affiliations and experience in federal agencies, national organizations, universities and schools across the United States (see participant biographies in Appendix C).

For the last decade, NSF has been concerned with increasing the capacity of the field to provide high quality evaluation services. In June 2000, NSF held a workshop to discuss issues related to increasing the supply of minority evaluators for mathematics and science programs and projects. With this workshop, NSF continued this dialogue aimed at describing the extent of the problem, developing a network to identify and share information about available resource materials, compiling lists of Native American evaluation professionals and identifying training and educational opportunities.

The NSF Assistant Director for EHR, and senior staff from the Division of Research, Evaluation and Communication, and the Division of Educational System Reform delivered opening remarks and framed the meeting's purpose. A Native American Elder also welcomed the workshop participants. Two invited paper sessions and one breakout group session followed, organized around three major themes:

- Evaluation issues relating to the academic achievement of Native American students;
- Education/training opportunities for Native American evaluators; and
- Developing, maintaining and expanding a network of Native American evaluators.

The goal of the workshop was to offer direction for future planning of evaluations and research activities, and to focus on capacity building within the field of educational evaluation. This report presents four invited workshop papers, two reports from the session discussants and three breakout group reports. Appendices include the workshop agenda, a list of participants and participant biographies.