

# Program Evaluation in Education and the Environment

Why It Matters to the National  
Science Foundation

EEN, June 8 & 9  
Washington, D.C.



# Program Evaluation Why It Matters to the National Science Foundation

Connie Kubo Della-Piana, PhD

Leslie Goodyear, PhD

Education and Human Resources Directorate

Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation

# Complex Environmental Systems Synthesis for Earth, Life, and Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- 10-year outlook for NSF
- NSF Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education



# Environmental Education

- Building Capacity
  - Pre-school, elementary, and secondary education
  - Two- and four-year colleges and research institutions
  - Informal education



# Climate Change Education Program

- FY 2009
- Programs across NSF
- Proposed projects in the pipeline
- Dear colleague letter
- FY 2010 Budget Request
- Multi-disciplinary
- Multi-faceted
- Variety of partnerships
- Formal and informal settings



# Why Evaluation Matters

## Evaluation Mechanisms

- Expert Judgment
  - Advisory Committees
  - Committee of Visitors
  - Third-party evaluation: National Academies
- Social Science-based Judgments
  - Third-party evaluations: Firms & Universities
- Project Evaluation
  - Program Requirement/Specifications



# Expert Judgment: Mechanisms

- Advisory Committees
  - Directorate Level
  - NSF-wide
- Committee of Visitors (COV)
  - Processes and Management
  - Outcomes
- National Academies



# Social Science Based Judgments Funding Mechanisms

- Grant
  - Program Solicitation
  - Special Project/"Unsolicited" Proposal
  - Proposal and Award Manual
  
- Procurement Contract
  - Statement of Work/Work Specification
  - Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)
  - Management and Oversight
  
- Interagency Agreement





# Project-Level Evaluation

- Requirement
  - Component of proposal
  - Component of merit review
- Specifications
  - Type of design/method(s)
  - Type of evaluator

# Why Evaluation Matters

## Program-Level Evaluation

- Expert Judgment
  - Advisory Committees
  - Committee of Visitors
- Social Science-based Judgment
  - Goals of program
  - Purpose(s) of the evaluation
  - Questions guiding evaluation
- Political climate
  - Government-wide program assessment



# Contact Information

- Connie Kubo Della-Piana, PhD
  - Division of Undergraduate Education
  - [cdellapi@nsf.gov](mailto:cdellapi@nsf.gov)
  
- Leslie Goodyear, PhD
  - Division of Research and Learning
  - [lgoodyea@nsf.gov](mailto:lgoodyea@nsf.gov)



