

STUDENTS DISCOVER

Monthly Update: October 2013

Monthly updates produced in the course of evaluating the Students Discover program provide a record of the significant events, activities, and developments in the program for the past month and will be useful for sharing information about the program with interested parties. The updates are organized to provide information on the inputs, strategies and activities, outputs, and outcomes associated with the program.

Overview

In June 2013, PI Rob Dunn learned that NSF was considering funding the Students Discover program but needed more information about the program. Also, NSF requested that the budget be reduced, evidently due in part to the effects of sequestration. PI Dunn organized the response to the NSF request for additional information and the budget reduction, and it was mid-September that NSF made an award announcement. The grant's performance period began October 1, 2013, and NSF has committed to fund the first three years of the five-year grant program, with funding for the last two years being dependent upon progress realized during the first three years.

Inputs

Leadership. Following receipt of the grant award, PI Dunn convened a meeting September 25, 2013, to brief key leaders involved in the project. Along with Dunn and others from the NCSU College of Science, leaders from the Kenan Fellows Program, Friday Institute, Science House, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Alamance-Burlington Schools, Wake County Public School System, and the project evaluation team were present, among others.

Strategies/Activities

Management. Management (e.g., coordination, planning, recruitment, dissemination, collaboration, etc.) is a principal strategy of leadership. With a PI, Co-PIs, and Senior Personnel spread across a number of colleges at NCSU and other public institutions, a collaborative management structure will be important to the success of Students Discover. The Community Tool Box at the University of Kansas characterizes collaborative management as an approach in which the whole group "...takes part in major decisions, and everyone takes part in decisions which affect her directly. At the same time, everyone has enough authority to fulfill her own responsibility and do her job effectively. The collaborative model allows everyone to feel a sense of ownership in the organization"¹

Management activities began late September in anticipation of an award and picked up very quickly in October. With a project of this magnitude and multiple partners, it is not possible nor desirable to detail every management activity and here we highlight a few of these activities.

¹ <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/leadership/effective-manager/management-plan/main>

Date	Who	Function	What
9/25/13	All partners	Coordination	Formal announcement of grant; introductions among individuals who will have significant roles and responsibilities
10/1/13	Friday Institute & GrantProse	Coordination	Initiate coordination of Research and Evaluation activities
10/21/13	Museum, Kenan Fellows	Coordination	Initiate coordination of 3-week Kenan Fellowships and future activities
10/31/13	Museum	Dissemination	Paleo team round table discussion with Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in Los Angeles
October	NCSU	Dissemination	PI Dunn makes presentations about Students Discover to varied audiences including high school staff
October	NCSU	Dissemination	Public updates about Students Discover are being posted to http://education.yourwildlife.org/news/ . Teachers and others can sign up to receive updates.
October	NCSU	Dissemination	Wisconsin public radio interview about the project scheduled for Nov 15
October	NCSU, Museum	Recruitment	Positions posted for post-doctoral fellowships
October	NCSU	Structures	Use of Moodle and Microsoft Project Management is being considered to provide structural resources to support management activities
October	GrantProse	Structures	Dedicated evaluation webpage found at http://grantproseinc.com/program-evaluation/discover/
11/1/13	Kenan Fellows	Planning	Plans made for meeting of school district personnel
11/5/13	NCSU	Planning	Plans made to talk about the project to University of Oklahoma educators and scientists
11/7-9/13	NCSU, Kenan Fellows, Science House	Planning	Plans made to attend the National Science Teachers Conference in Charlotte
11/8/13	NCSU	Planning/ Collaboration	Plans made to talk to SPIRE scientists at UNC about MSP projects and potential for involvement
11/18/13	Friday Institute & GrantProse	Planning	Plans made to continue coordinating Research and Evaluation activities
11/19-21/13	Museum	Planning	Andrew Collins visitation
11/21/13	NCSU, Museum, KF	Planning	Meeting with Wake County Public School System staff to discuss Summer Bridge program
12/5/13	NCSU	Planning	Plans made for meeting with scientists and citizen science leaders in Guanajuato, Mexico
2/11/14	Friday Institute	Planning	Plans made for Chris Dede workshop

Outputs

Examples of outputs include the number of Kenan Fellowships completed, number of curriculum modules developed, number of students completing Summer Bridge programs, and number of presentations made at conferences or research papers produced. Outputs to date are:

- Dedicated Students Discover website at <http://education.yourwildlife.org/news/>

Outcomes

Examples of outcomes include changes in teaching practices, changes in students' attitudes towards science and their knowledge of science, and changes in institutional practices, policies, and/or procedures. There are no outcomes to report to date.