Planning for Sustainability

May 12, 2015

The Webinar Begins At 3 PM Eastern
Webinar Details

- For this webinar you will be in listen only mode using your computer or phone
- Please ask questions via the question window
- This webinar is being recorded – you will be sent a recording link
The CCTA IS Led By

- National Center for Convergence Technology (CTC) based at Collin College in Frisco, TX (lead)
- South Carolina ATE National Resource Center (SCATE) based at Florence Darlington Technical College in Florence, SC
- Florida ATE Center (FLATE) based at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, FL
- Bio-Link Next Generation National ATE Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences (Bio-Link) based at City College of San Francisco in San Francisco, CA
- Networks Resource Center based at the Maricopa Community College District in Phoenix, AZ
CCTA Purpose

• Respond to a request from the Department of Labor (DOL) to the NSF to have ATE Centers provide technical assistance services to DOL TAACCCT grantees
  – Success coaching
  – In-person convenings
  – Knowledge management /best practices
  – Peer-to-peer learning
CCTA Activities are Relevant for

- Department of Labor grants
- National Science Foundation Projects and Centers
- Workforce-oriented programs of all kinds
Deliverables

• Topical Webinars and Teleconferences On
  – Existing and new solutions
  – Live/recroded with attendee Q&A
  – Archived on www.atecentral.net

• Other online media including videos and transcripts
Deliverables Continued

• Invitations to regional discipline-specific conferences
• Identify and document best practices
• Host convenings
Poll #1: Your Affiliation

A. I am involved with an NSF grant
B. I am involved with a TAACCCT grant
C. Both
D. Neither
Elaine Craft, Director, SC ATE Center of Excellence
PI, Mentor-Connect: Leadership and Outreach for ATE &
Co-PI, SC ATE National Resource Center for Expanding Excellence in Technician Education
Why Focus on Sustainability?

• Sustainability makes sense because grants
  – Are designed to jumpstart programs or provide specific support
  – Are not designed to provide operational support on an ongoing basis
  – Support work over a finite time period
  – Come with high expectations

• Regardless of grant funding source
  – Recipients are expected to sustain at least a portion of the work
  – How and what can be sustained varies
Why Focus on Sustainability?

NSF Requires [NSF 14-577, June 2014]

...expected to communicate a realistic vision for sustainability.

...expected that at least some aspects of both centers and projects will be sustained or institutionalized past the period of award funding.
Why Focus on Sustainability?

• DOL Requires [SGA/DFA PY-13-10]
• In rating proposals, 2 points were assigned to the Sustainability Plan.
• “...applicant will integrate ...strategies and activities into their non-grant funded program(s) for continued success.”
• Evaluation: “What contributions did each of the partners and other key key stakeholders make towards ...commitment to program sustainability?”
What is Sustainability?

- NSF: “Being sustainable means that a project or center has developed a product or service that the host institution, its partners, and its target audiences want continued.”

- DOL: Looks for evidence of a grantee’s planning to “integrate these strategies and activities into their non-grant funded program(s) for continued success.”
Rachael Bower,
Director, Internet Scout
PI, ATE Central
Primary Purpose: Amplify the Impact of ATE

- Information Hub and Portal
- Resource Collection
- Outreach and Dissemination
- Services and Tools
  - Online Outreach Kit
  - ATE@20 Book+Blog
  - ATE Resource Archive
  - Sustainability Support

http://atecentral.net
ATE Central’s Sustainability Support

- Created in response to articulated community need and with ongoing community input
- Based on research from within and beyond ATE
- Delivered in collaboration with Ithaka S&R
- Offers participants workshops, webinars and online resources
General Sustainability Examples

• A host institution commits to maintaining some of the positions for those hired by a grant funded project.
• Project partners agree to supply external resources to fund project components after funding ends.
• Other organizations or educational institutions commit to continuing to use, improve, and disseminate curricula or other materials developed during the project.
Sustainability Research: Reports

- 5 reports from 2000-2011
  - Institutionalization and Sustainability of the National Science Foundations Advanced Technological Education Program
  - Sustainability: Increasing the Likelihood of a Long-Term Impact by the ATE Program
  - A Conference on Self-Sustainability
  - Measuring the Sustainability of the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program
  - Ithaka Case Studies in Sustainability
Sustainability Research: Key Findings

- Institutionalize/embed
- Define audience/stakeholders
- Evaluate/understand your value proposition
- Think creatively/explore possibilities
- Early and often
Questions?
How to Implement?

- Determine what is worth sustaining (data!)

Seek Funding?  
Work to Institutionalize?

Lessons Learned
Institutionalization

- Integration
- Adoption: equipment, curriculum, resources
- Behavior modification
- Partner relations
Journey to Sustainability

SC ATE Internship Program

Grant Funded  →  Funded by other Center funds  →  Institutionalized
SC ATE Internship Program

- Grant funded
- Industry Consortium

Developed By-laws
Placed interns in member companies
SC ATE Internship Program

Funding ended & sustained by other center funding

Lessons learned

- ↓ Time Commitment
- Faculty can’t run Internship Program
- Must be multidisciplinary

Transitioned to Institution

Interns Wanted
• Elaine Johnson
  Bio-Link PI & Director
  c3bc Hub Leader
Bio-Link Sustainability Planning

• Utilize Data Resources
  – Professional development feedback
  – Measures of industry engagement
  – Labor market studies for middle skills jobs
  – Measurement of economic impact of contract services
  – Analysis of web analytics to identify users and usage
  – Preparation for archival destinations
  – Equipment maintenance

• Respond to Need
  – Career information
  – Communication
  – Equipment distribution
  – Bridge for under-prepared students
Strategies for Sustainability

• Example from the field
  – Develop a community of practice
  – Bio-Link Summer Fellows Forum
  – 17th gathering in summer 2015
NISGTC Sustainability

• Career Coach & Tutors
  – Comparing students who utilized grant services such as career coaches, tutors, test prep software versus those who did not
    • Fall to spring retention almost doubled
  – Focus groups to back up Institutional Research data with qualitative data
    • Students who did not use services or sign participant form
    • Students who only used Transcender test prep software
    • Student who took full advantage of all services
NISGTC Sustainability

- Completion of credential increased, likely due to career coach intervention (still working on the data)
- Request was for 2 Career Coaches on hard money; based on data this was increased to 3
- Curriculum institutionalized through implementation into programs
- Virtual Lab plus all small and large equipment will be supported by IT
  - Maintenance costs
  - Personnel to support (required training and transition)
Poll #2: How Much Will You Sustain?

A. I really think I need to sustain everything
B. I don’t think I can sustain everything, perhaps 75%
C. I probably won’t sustain more that 25%
D. When the funding ends we’re done
E. Not sure – that’s partly why I’m here today
Tips to Consider in Planning to Sustain

• From the beginning, determine which components of your work will likely have impact and could/should be sustained over time and why?

• Will sustainability be through institutionalization, funding through the college budget, in-kind from partners, donations or a combination?

• Gather data to support potential requests for funding from the beginning

• Talk with other staff, business partners, administrators, other PIs and Directors about sustainability regularly to help to develop your plans

• Continually refine your Sustainability Plans based on data, and be sure to present data to those who make budget decisions in time for those decisions to be made
Want More Sustainability Resources?

- Indicators of the sustainability of NSF's Advanced Technological Education Program
- Keep the Ball Rolling: Sustaining Projects Through Dissemination
- Searching for Sustainability: Strategies from Eight Digitized Special Collections
- End Games: The Challenge of Sustainability
- For these resources and more visit http://atecentral.net/sustainabilty
Questions?
Join Us – All Webinars 3 pm Eastern

• June 18 — Other Approaches for Ensuring Effective Business Engagement in Programs

What are some secrets of success for strong industry engagement in your college’s workforce programs and projects? What do they need to become active participants and partners – even if they do not need to hire your students today? With decades of experience behind them, the NSF ATE Centers have many strategies for starting and growing strong, sustainable and highly engaged industry partnerships.
Register for HI-TEC and TAACCCT Convening

HI-TEC Conference July 29-30 in Portland, Oregon


1. TAACCCT-specific session track during the conference.

2. Free follow-up TAACCCT technical assistance convening for all TAACCCT grantees on Friday, July 31.
Q&A and Contacts

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