

UNAVCO
Research Experiences in Solid Earth Science for Students
(RESESS) Project
External Evaluation Plan

Scope of Work

This is an evaluation of the RESESS program, which is a program patterned after, and affiliated with the SOARS program, for which the Ethnography and Evaluation Research Center, University of Colorado, Boulder also conducted an evaluation. The RESESS project has a geo-science focus, based in east Boulder county, and runs alongside, overlapping with, the SOARS program. The evaluation will include in-depth, ethnographic interviews with key program participants, and in cooperation with a national evaluation effort from the AIR program, administration of their survey to protégé participants. Interviews with protégés will be conducted during the summer sessions when they are in the Boulder area, and interviews with their respective mentors will be conducted shortly after the conclusion of each summer session. Reports, oral and written, will be delivered to Susan Eriksson, PI of the RESESS program, at times listed below. Reports in years 2006 and 2007 will be formative evaluation progress reports designed to optimize the program, and the final report in 2008 will be summative in nature, to include any findings that may be helpful to future projects. This project is currently limited to one year of effort with continuation of Years 2 and 3 contingent on successful and timely completion of Year 1 activity.

Program Goals

The RESESS program goals are consistent with those of SOARS:

- To enhance protégé interest in the discipline
- To facilitate enrollment of students from under-represented groups as protégés
- To encourage and support protégés entry into graduate school, preferably in the geo-sciences
- To promote protégés' socialization into the science community, including the enhancement of research and writing skills.

To promote systems change by:

- Teaching the UNAVCO community the value of the RESESS program and of mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in general
- Teaching the community beyond UNAVCO (ie GSA and AGU) the value of the RESESS program and of mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in general.

Year One

3 protégés

- In-depth interviews with three protégés.
- Administration of the AIR survey.

- In-depth interviews with the protégés' mentors (estimated at twelve, some of whom are graduate students, from SOARS and UNAVCO community).

7/2/2007

- One focus group interview with administrators/managers, not fully-coded (quick coded, for protocol development, to inform report-writing)
- One focus group interview with Steering Committee (two members from UNAVCO on SOARS committee and two from SOARS on UNAVCO's committee), not fully-coded (quick coded, for protocol dev, to inform report writing)

Year one = 15 interviews fully-coded, 2 quick-coded focus group with admin.

Year Two

- In-depth interviews with six protégés; three who are new, three returning.
- Observe Steering Committee meeting (not fully coded)
- Interview mentors in focus groups at an event/meeting where they would be anyway—4 groups: research, writing, community, and peer mentors

Year two = 7 interviews, 3 new protégés, 4 focus groups

Year Three

- In-depth interviews with six protégés, two from each of first two years, plus two new ones.
- 15 interviews: 6 protégés, 4 mentor focus groups (research, writing, community, peer), 3 admin: steering committee, admin, staff, 2 individual mentors who can't make the focus group interviews.

CU Human Research Committee approval has been secured.

Deliverables and Price

Three years, June, 2006 – December 2008

Year one: Evaluation to be conducted end of summer 2006

Year two: Evaluation to be conducted end of summer 2007

Year three: Evaluation to be conducted end of summer 2008

Formative Evaluation Report due Dec 1, 2006

Formative Evaluation Report due Dec 1, 2007

Verbal report to RESESS Principal Investigator, Susan Eriksson Sep 15, 2008

Summative Evaluation Report due Dec 1, 2008.