


**Wanted:  
Evaluators**

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**Evaluate**  
EVALUATION RESOURCE CENTER *for*  
advanced technological education

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The Evaluation Center	Western Michigan University	National Science Foundation

## EvaluATE's Mission

EvaluATE promotes the goals of the ATE program by partnering with projects and centers to

- strengthen the program's evaluation knowledge base
- expand the use of exemplary evaluation practices
- support the continuous improvement of technician education throughout the nation.

## The ATE Program

With an emphasis on two-year colleges, the **Advanced Technological Education** program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our nation's economy.

[www.nsf.gov/ate](http://www.nsf.gov/ate)



## The ATE Program



### “High-technology fields”

- Agricultural technology
- Biotechnology
- Chemical technology
- Cybersecurity
- Energy
- Marine technology
- Nanotechnology
- Telecommunications
- and more...

## Types of Initiatives

- Projects
  - National centers
  - Regional centers
  - Resource centers
- 
- Professional development
  - Curriculum materials development
  - Program development
  - Leadership capacity building for faculty
  - Business & entrepreneurial skills for students
  - Teacher preparation
  - Research on technician education

## To Learn More About ATE...

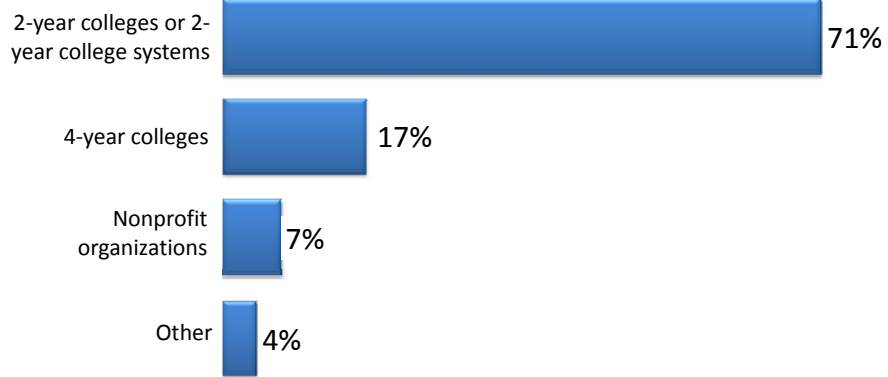


## The ATE Survey

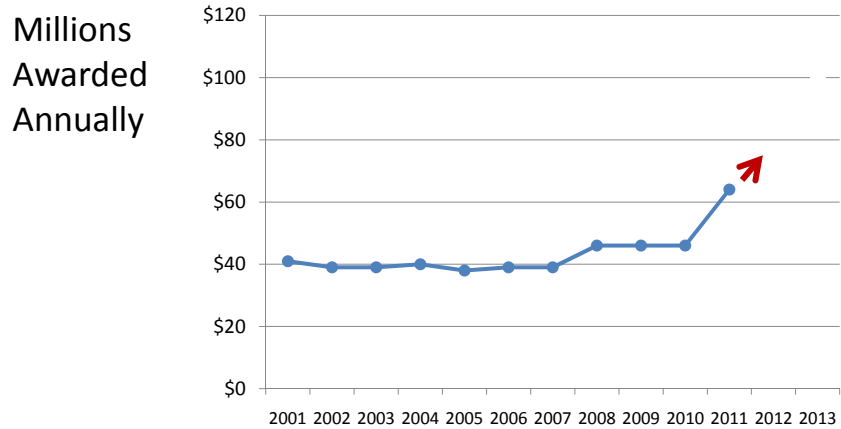
- Conducted annually since 2000
- Questions address:
  - Grantee characteristics
  - Collaboration
  - Organizational Practices
  - Materials development
  - Professional development
  - Program improvement

**95%**  
response rate

## Grantee Institutions



## Program Growth



## Evaluation in the ATE Context

### 3 ATE-Specific Intellectual Merit Criteria About Evaluation:

- Is the evaluation plan clearly tied to the project outcomes?
- Is the evaluation likely to provide useful information to the project and others?
- Does the project provide for effective assessment of student learning?



## Evaluation in the ATE Context

### 1 ATE-Specific Broader Impacts Criterion About Evaluation:

- Will the project evaluation inform others through the communication of results?



## Evaluation in the ATE Context

“ The PI should establish claims as to the project's effectiveness, and the evaluative activities should provide evidence on the extent to which the claims are realized. ”

—2010 ATE Program Solicitation

## Evaluation in the ATE Context

Proposers are expected to have an evaluator  
IDENTIFIED IN THE PROPOSAL.

## Evaluation in the ATE Context

What PIs look for in an evaluator:

- Content-area knowledge
- Community college experience
- Proximity

## Our Approach

- Help ATE grantees to be more sophisticated consumers of evaluation services and products
- Enhance evaluation knowledge and skills among current ATE evaluators
- Connect qualified evaluators with ATE grantees



## The Need for Evaluators



NSF said we needed an evaluator. I had no idea what they meant.

## The Need for Evaluators



How can I find an evaluator?

## The Need for Evaluators



I have a friend in the Engineering Department. Can she be our evaluator?

## The Need for Evaluators



Will you be our evaluator?

## Addressing the Need

- ✓ Webinars, workshop, & print materials
- ✓ ATE Evaluation Community of Practice
- Evaluator Selection Guidelines
- Contract Template

## What You Can Do

Join the ATE Evaluation  
Community of Practice



- Add yourself to the ATE Evaluator Directory
- Join our listserv
- Participate in our webinars
- Collaborate in developing and testing resources

**[www.evalu-ate.org/community](http://www.evalu-ate.org/community)**

