

Monitoring and evaluation of the IGERT Program has been underway since shortly after its inception in 1997, and focuses on the implementation of projects at individual universities. Beginning in 2002, REC funded a multiple-methods study cleared as "The Cross-Site Analysis of the IGERT program" (OMB 3154-0182), focused on project implementation and impacts, and consisting of site visits to projects in their third year of implementation. The next step is to ask questions about the impact of IGERT on participants, institutions, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields as compared to the experiences of appropriate comparison groups and/or external respondents. Topics addressed will include the following: What is the added recruitment value of the IGERT project? How do the content and structure of IGERT educational and research experiences differ from those experienced by students in a single-discipline doctoral program? How do IGERT students, faculty, and graduates differ from non-IGERT comparison groups in terms of their productivity, academic skills, ability to work in cross-disciplinary teams, and interest in interdisciplinary research? At their home institutions, have IGERT projects expanded? Do they benefit from institutional financial or policy support beyond that experienced by non-IGERT departments? Have projects resulted in new courses or degree programs? Outside their home institution, how well are IGERT projects known, and what impact is the IGERT program having on STEM fields at large?

A series of surveys and interviews will be employed to answer these questions along with the previously cleared site visits. Internet surveys will be administered to PIs; IGERT department chairs and comparison department chairs; IGERT trainees and comparison department doctoral students; and IGERT and comparison department faculty. Secondly, interviews will be conducted with IGERT institutional administrators and comparison institutional administrators. Finally, e-mail surveys will be developed for graduates of IGERT programs and corresponding comparison graduates; supervisors at IGERT internship sites; and leaders of professional associations and educational agencies (national and international).

The IGERT program consists of multidisciplinary projects that bring together faculty and students from multiple departments. To form an appropriate comparison group for this program, this study will match the two

departments with the largest number of students from each IGERT project with non-IGERT single discipline departments. This approach compares the multidisciplinary graduate education experience with traditional single department graduate education, and uses IGERT as the exemplar of the multidisciplinary. The counter-factual provided by this comparison group choice is the single department experience trainees would have had, had they not become IGERT trainees.

*Expected respondents:* The data for this study will be gathered through surveys and telephone interviews. The expected respondents are:

*Surveys:*

- (1) Current IGERT students and comparison non-IGERT students
- (2) Current IGERT faculty and comparison non-IGERT faculty
- (3) Current IGERT PIs
- (4) IGERT department chairs and comparison non-IGERT department chairs
- (5) IGERT graduates and comparison non-IGERT graduates
- (6) Representatives of STEM fields
- (7) Leaders in STEM fields (heads of associations, renowned researchers \* \* \*)
- (8) Supervisors at IGERT student internship sites

*Interviews:*

- (9) Administrators at IGERT and non-IGERT institutions

*Burden on the Public:* This study's total sample is 3350 individuals, and the total estimated burden for this collection is 980 hours. The average estimated reporting burden is 20 minutes per respondent. The study includes IGERT program participants and a comparison group in close to equal proportions. Because the comparison group members are members of the general public not funded by the program being evaluated, the burden upon the general public is calculated to be 473 hours.

Dated: January 14, 2004.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

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## **NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

### **Sunshine Act Meeting**

**TIME AND PLACE:** 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2004.

**PLACE:** NTSB Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20594.

**STATUS:** The two items are open to the public.

### **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

7610—Highway Accident Report—School Bus Run-off-Bridge Accident, Omaha, Nebraska, October 13, 2001.

7470C—Opinion and Order: Administrator v. Donnelly, Docket SE-16222; Disposition of Respondent's and the Administrator's Petitions for Reconsideration.

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:** Telephone: (202) 314-6100.

Individuals requesting specific accommodations should contact Ms. Carolyn Dargan at (202) 314-6305 by Friday, January 23, 2004.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Vicky D'Onofrio, (202) 314-6410.

Dated: January 16, 2004.

**Vicky D'Onofrio,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 7533-01-M**

## **NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL**

### **Sunshine Act; Notice of Public Meeting**

In accordance with the Women's Business Ownership Act, Public Law 106-554 as amended, the National Women's Business Council (NWBC) would like to announce a forthcoming Council meeting. The meeting will introduce the National Women's Business Council's agenda and action items for fiscal year 2003 included by not limited to procurement, access to capital, access to training and technical assistance, access to markets and affordable health care.

**DATES:** January 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Hearing Room, 428A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Status: Open to the public. Attendance by RSVP only.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

National Women's Business Council, (202) 205-6695—Katherine Stanley.

Anyone wishing to attend and make an oral presentation at the meeting must contact Katherine Stanley, no later than Monday, January 26, 2004 at (202) 205-6695.

**Matthew Becker,**

*Director of Advisory Councils.*

[FR Doc. 04-1394 Filed 1-16-04; 3:25 pm]

**BILLING CODE 6820-AB-P**