

## *Engagement through the Disciplines*

2006 National Outreach Scholarship Conference

Columbus OH

# Partnerships to Build Enduring Understandings: Education, Outreach and Broader Impact (EOBI) Workshop for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Faculty

SueAnn Bottoms

Eda Davis-Butts

Sujaya Rao

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# Development of the Education, Outreach, and Broader Impact Workshops for STEM Research Faculty

- Polling of research faculty about the need for the workshop
- Proposal presented to Research Office
- Formation of an ad hoc EOBI Committee
- Invitations extended to various research faculty and outreach practitioners
- Series of committee meetings and work assignments

# A Scientist's EOBI Committee Participation

Able to communicate faculty perspectives, concerns and challenges which limit their involvement in outreach

Experience in a leadership role in a outreach program helpful to the committee

Personally greatly interested in outreach and interested in getting more colleagues involved

# Content of the Introductory EOBI Workshops

- Faculty Perspectives on EOBI
- Addressing Diversity in EOBI
- Nuts and Bolts of EOBI
- Outreach Roundtables



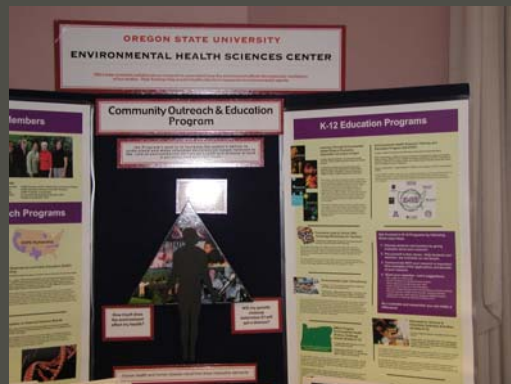


## Goals for Introductory Workshops

- Build better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of doing effective EOBI
- Create greater awareness of OSU outreach programs
- Begin to build the capacity of OSU as a leader in engaging researchers in meaningful and effective EOBI

# Additional Content in the Advanced EOBI Workshop

- Levels of Commitment in EOBI
- EOBI Planning - program design, budgeting, addressing diversity, and assessment and evaluation
- EOBI Showcase



# An Untenured Scientist's Perspective

- Potential risks
  - Time commitment
  - Documenting 'scholarship' from outreach engagements
  - Convincing colleagues about the value of outreach
- Benefits
  - Visibility
  - Outreach funding adds to grantsmanship
  - Options available for documenting scholarship

Examples:

Rao, S. Shamah, D., and Royce, L. 2003. Integrating graduates and undergraduates in science education in rural Oregon schools. *American Entomologist*. 49: 136-139.

Rao, S. Shamah, D., and Collay, R. 2006. Meaningful involvement of science undergraduates in k-12 outreach. *Journal of College Science Teaching* (In Press).

# Goals for Advanced EOBI Workshop

- Support a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of doing effective education, outreach, and broader impact programming
- Build the capacity of researchers to accomplish meaningful and effective education, outreach, and broader impact programming by promoting linkages with OSU outreach programs





# Participants in EOBI Workshops

Workshop	Research Faculty	Professional Faculty	Graduate Students
I	23	22	2
II	21	14	3
III*	20	17	2

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# Summary of Workshop Evaluations

- All participants stated they would recommend to other faculty to attend the workshops.
- The workshops were identified as important steps in supporting faculty in addressing EOBI.
- Future efforts should include offerings for administrators to expand their understanding of the context of federal funding for scientific research.
- The networking of research faculty and outreach program faculty was highly valued and much needed.



# Key Points from Workshop Evaluations

- An infrastructure is needed to support research faculty in identifying appropriate strategies and partners to accomplish EOBI.
- The perceived lack of value in EOBI, the lack of incentives for faculty, and the lack of colleague and administrator support for EOBI are barriers to research faculty engagement.
- Engagement in EOBI will be facilitated by an explicit institutional agenda, on-going communication between research faculty and outreach practitioners, and appropriate funding to support the efforts.

# Recommendations from Workshops

- Offer an ongoing series around specific topics
- Develop discipline-specific sessions
- Compile and deliver a report to the Faculty Senate
- Explore potential infrastructure to support EOBI
- Charge a faculty committee to gather information and make recommendations about EOBI at OSU
- Provide forum for research faculty to express their concerns and challenges in addressing EOBI

# Some Collaborations Resulting from EOBI Workshops

- National Park Outreach Program and Hatfield Marine Science Center
- The SMILE Program and Mechanical Engineering Senior Capstone Project
- Science Outreach Course - Rural Science Education and The SMILE Program



# A Tenured Scientist's Perspective

## Options:

- Negotiate job description to include more outreach responsibilities
- Continue hard core research and outreach without worrying as much about job security
- Less stress makes it more enjoyable!

# Next Steps in EOBI Initiatives

- Reestablishment and recognition of EOBI Committee
- Institutionalization of workshops through the Research Office
- Collaboration with the Graduate School to support the professional development of STEM graduate students

# Presenter Information

SueAnn Bottoms

[sueann.bottoms@smile.oregonstate.edu](mailto:sueann.bottoms@smile.oregonstate.edu)

Eda Davis-Butts

[eda.davisbutts@smile.oregonstate.edu](mailto:eda.davisbutts@smile.oregonstate.edu)

Sujaya Rao

[sujaya@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sujaya@oregonstate.edu)