

WORKSHOP ON EXTENSION EVALUATION

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A brief review of the congressionally mandated evaluation including conflicts in perceptions and other relationships at the federal level was followed by enunciation of implications for field staff and implications for public policy education. For field staff the principal implications relate to program planning and the development of abilities to document program impacts. Statement of objectives and explicit identification of clientele are critical components.

In the public policy education arena three items were identified for which program consideration seems appropriate:

1. Development of a clear understanding of the difference between program analysis and political support. Both analytical and political approaches to program evaluation are important but do not substitute for each other.
2. Extension staff and administration appear to lack understanding of the policy process within the federal government. Public policy educators have an opportunity to help improve this level of understanding.
3. Public policy education appears to offer potential in generating support for educational programs through its framework of analyzing and comparing alternatives.

