

Dear PI,

As an awardee of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, we want to take this time to introduce you to Abt Associates Inc. We are pleased to announce that Abt Associates Inc and its subsidiary Abt-SRBI have been selected to conduct a third party program level evaluation of the NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Abt Associates is a recognized leader in policy, consulting, and program evaluation. For the past 20 years, Abt Associates, Inc has conducted evaluation studies for the National Science Foundation, including many studies of STEM teacher preparation programs, such as Centers for Learning and Teaching (CLT), Teacher Professional Continuum (TPC), Graduate Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12), and Discovery Research K-12 (DRK-12).

As mentioned in the program solicitation, all projects are expected to cooperate with an NSF third party program evaluation that will require participation in an annual data collection. Ellen Bobronnikov of Abt Associates is the Project Director for this effort and will be contacting you in the future for your assistance in providing information about your Noyce project. The program evaluation is guided by a set of evaluation questions concerning the impact and effectiveness of the program. It is expected that the program evaluation will contribute to an understanding of strategies that are successful in attracting and retaining effective teachers with strong STEM content knowledge. Request for information to support the program evaluation will be in addition to annual and/or final reports and information submitted to the Noyce Program Monitoring System.

We look forward to working with the Abt evaluation team in the program evaluation of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. If you have any concerns or questions about the program evaluation, please contact Connie Kubo Della-Piana (cdellapi@nsf.gov) who is a Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education and is the program manager for the program evaluation.

Regards,

Joan Prival  
Lead Program Director  
Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program  
Division of Undergraduate Education

Connie Kubo Della-Piana  
Program Director, Evaluation  
Division of Undergraduate Education.



**Abt Associates Inc.**

[Date]

RE: Evaluation of the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program

Dear [Noyce PI]:

This letter is a follow-up to the email you received in the fall from Joan Prival and Connie Kubo Della-Piana of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program office describing plans for the third party program level evaluation of the NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. Abt Associates is working with the National Science Foundation to conduct this evaluation. It is expected that the program evaluation will contribute to an understanding of strategies that are successful in attracting and retaining effective teachers with strong science and/or mathematics content knowledge.

We will be surveying Principal Investigators, STEM faculty, Noyce recipients, and K-12 administrators of schools where teachers with current or previous support from Noyce are working in the fall of 2010 to try to learn more about the Noyce Program and the effects it is having on the teacher preparation program, as well as teacher recruitment, retention, and leadership activities. All surveys will be conducted through an on-line survey system. Each respondent will receive an individual email from us requesting their participation in the study; you will not be asked to contact anyone.

We are writing at this time to request your assistance. From the annual Noyce monitoring data you fill out, we have a list of all current and former scholarship and stipend recipients [and interns] associated with your grant as well as the number of STEM faculty members involved in your Noyce project. We are hoping that you will be able to provide us with contact information for the Noyce recipients and the names of the STEM faculty so that we will be able to contact them about participating in the surveys. We would appreciate it if you can enter this information in a secure online web portal. You can access the web portal by clicking on the link below. If clicking the link does not take you to the portal, you may need to copy and paste the link onto your web browser. You can log into the portal by entering the Username and Password noted below.

<http://srbireports.com/Noyce/login.aspx>

Username and Password for [Title of Project]

Username: [Award id]

Password [        ]

Once you log into the web portal, you will note that it includes two tabs: one labeled *Student*, and one labeled *Faculty*.

In the *Student* tab, we have included the names of all recipients entered into the Noyce monitoring system as participating in your grant. To help you identify these recipients, we have also provided information on the year they initially received their internship, scholarship, stipend, or fellowship; the type of support they received; the year they completed their teacher preparation (if at all); and whether they are currently teaching. Please verify that this list of Noyce recipients is correct, and then enter their primary e-mail address, secondary e-mail address (if applicable), address, and phone number. If any current or past Noyce recipients are not included on this list, please add their name, the year they first received support, the type of support they received, and their e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number. If any recipient should not be included in this list, please click on the 'Delete' Button to remove them from this list.

In the *Faculty* tab, we would like to develop a list of the names of all STEM faculty members who are currently involved in your Noyce program. This includes any faculty member who participates in the development and implementation of the project through activities such as serving on the leadership team, conducting activities or courses, recruiting and/or selecting Noyce support recipients, and mentoring and/or monitoring Noyce support recipients. For *each* STEM faculty member involved in your Noyce Program, please provide us with their names, departments and institution names.

We would appreciate it if you could complete the requested information by XX, 2010. If you already have a document that lists the contact information for all current and former Noyce recipients, you may send us this document by email at [NoyceEval@abtassoc.com](mailto:NoyceEval@abtassoc.com) instead of entering it into the web portal, and just enter the names of STEM faculty involved in the program. If you need technical support for the online web portal, please contact us at [NoyceEval@abtassoc.com](mailto:NoyceEval@abtassoc.com).

The success of the evaluation will depend on our ability to identify and locate as many respondents as possible so we can learn about the effects of the program across awards. We will be providing more information about the surveys in the fall.

If you have any questions about this important evaluation, please do not hesitate to contact Ellen Bobronnikov, the Project Director, by e-mail at [ellen\\_bobronnikov@abtassoc.com](mailto:ellen_bobronnikov@abtassoc.com) or by telephone at 617-349-2718. Additionally, you can contact Connie Kubo Della-Piana ([cdellapi@nsf.gov](mailto:cdellapi@nsf.gov)) who is a Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education of the National Science Foundation and is the program officer for the program evaluation.

On behalf of the National Science Foundation, thank you for your help!

Sincerely,



Ellen Bobronnikov  
Noyce Evaluation Project Director,  
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## The National Study of the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Abt Associates, an independent private research firm, is conducting a third party program level evaluation of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program for the National Science Foundation (NSF). This evaluation will examine how institutions of higher education are implementing activities funded through the Noyce program, and how the program as a whole is attracting and retaining science and math teachers.

Your cooperation and participation are essential to helping the NSF to learn about the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

### *The evaluation will...*

- **Document the value** of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program for interested parties such as the federal government. NSF will use information from this evaluation to inform future funding of the Noyce Program.
- **Enable you to learn** how your Noyce project fits in with the broader context of Noyce projects nationally.
- **Describe outcomes** of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program for scholarship and stipend recipients and host institutions.

### Evaluation Activities and Schedule:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Spring 2010:      | Finalize study design and prepare contact database  |
| Summer/Fall 2010: | Prepare online surveys  |
| Fall 2010/2011:   | Administer online surveys of Principal Investigators, STEM faculty, Noyce recipients, and K-12 administrators |
| Winter 2011/2012  | Conduct interviews with a sample of Principal Investigators, STEM faculty, and Noyce recipients               |
| Spring 2011/2012: | Analyze data  |
| Fall 2012:        | Prepare final report  |

### Key Study Personnel:

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