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BIE Program Director Interview Protocol

Introduction

The Office of International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is conducting an assessment of the Business and International Education (BIE) Program. As part of this assessment, we are interviewing program directors about various aspects of project outcomes, evaluation, and sustainability. Your input is critical to understanding the degree to which the BIE program is building the capacity for international business and economic enterprise of the United States and how best to structure ongoing data collection and evaluation of the BIE program.

It might be helpful to you to have handy a copy of the last BIE program report you submitted to refer to during the interview.

DATA/REPORTING QUESTIONS

1. In what year did you last enter data into the International Resource Information System (IRIS) for your BIE project? (e.g., Calendar Year)
2. Do you recall approximately how long (e.g., hours) it took to compile the necessary data and enter it into the system? (Spring year 1; fall year 1; final year 2)
3. From your recollection, were the kinds of data required in IRIS useful to understanding your program's successes and areas in need of improvement? Please describe the benefits and/or shortcomings of the data currently collected in IRIS.
4. Please talk about the kinds of IRIS data or evidence that have been the most useful in understanding the successes and areas for improvement of your BIE program. Is there other data that IRIS does not currently collect that would be useful?
5. What do you consider the greatest successes of your BIE program in building the capacity for international business and economic enterprise of the United States? What kinds of data or evidence are available to showcase these?
6. What aspects or activities have been continued beyond the BIE funding?
7. In what ways do you use data to encourage continued financial and other types of support for your programs?

8. Do you use data (reported in IRIS or elsewhere) to leverage additional funding for your program? If so, how?
9. Do you feel your data clearly show your program's effectiveness? Why or why not?
10. What other information could we collect from the projects to illustrate issues of course and college completion? Workforce development?

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT QUESTIONS (continued onto page 2)

1. What data present the most compelling case for continued federal (Title VI) program funding based on demonstrating the merit of the BIE grant project?
2. What difficulties do you have with the matching process/component?
3. What about the current BIE program works and what doesn't? What strategies/practices work best? What challenges have you faced with your program?
4. If you could change three things about the BIE grant program to make it more effective, what would they be?
5. Do you believe the current frequency and number of required reports to ED is appropriate? Please elaborate on your response.
6. Do you believe that the current duration of funding for this program is appropriate to result in the desired outcomes? Why or why not?