

# Attachment 8

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## Survey Introductory E-mails

- A. Awardees
- B. Applicants

Dear <NAME>:

As the Director of the Academic Research Enhancement (AREA R15) Program, I want to ask for your assistance in NIH's evaluation of the AREA Program. We are working with Westat, an independent research organization, to assess the extent to which the AREA program is fulfilling its mission to strengthen the overall quality and productivity of funded institutions or schools and to expose undergraduate students to hands-on research experience. On my behalf, Westat is collecting information from AREA awardees, students involved in AREA-funded projects, and unsuccessful applicants for AREA funding.

As an AREA-funded principal investigator, your feedback is critical to understanding the program. In about one week, you will receive an email invitation to participate in an online survey for this evaluation from Westat. Participation in the survey is voluntary, but your involvement will help NIH understand the impact of the AREA program and develop strategies to further enhance the program's impact.

If you have any questions about the administration of this survey or the overall evaluation, please contact me.

Michelle M. Timmerman, Ph.D.  
Director, NIH AREA Program  
Office of Extramural Research  
Office of the Director  
National Institutes of Health  
[R151@mail.nih.gov](mailto:R151@mail.nih.gov)

For the latest updates about the AREA Program, like us on [Facebook!](#)

Dear <NAME>:

As the Director of the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA R15) Program, I want to ask for your assistance in NIH's evaluation of the AREA (R15) Program. NIH is working with Westat, an independent research organization, to evaluate the extent to which the AREA program is fulfilling its mission to strengthen the overall quality and productivity of funded institutions or schools and to expose undergraduate students to hands-on research experience. On my behalf, Westat is collecting information from applicants to the AREA Program, AREA awardees, and students involved in AREA-funded projects.

As an individual who has previously applied for AREA funding, your feedback is critical to understanding the application process and existing demand for the program. In about one week, you will receive an invitation to participate in an online survey for this evaluation from Westat. Participation in the survey is voluntary, but your involvement will help NIH understand the impact of the AREA program and develop strategies to further enhance the program's impact.

If you have any questions about the administration of this survey or the overall evaluation, please contact:

Michelle M. Timmerman, Ph.D.  
Director, NIH AREA Program  
Office of Extramural Research  
Office of the Director  
National Institutes of Health  
[R151@mail.nih.gov](mailto:R151@mail.nih.gov)

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