

NIH OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (OD)

# Attachment 16

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Interview Introductory E-mail

Dear <NAME>:

As the Director of the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program, I thank you for completing the web survey to help us evaluate how well the AREA Program is fulfilling its mission. Westat, the independent research organization NIH is working with, is also conducting telephone interviews with awardees to collect in-depth information about the implementation of the Program's goals.

As the recipient of an R15 grant, your perspective will be crucial to assessing the past performance and future direction of the AREA program.

I hope you will participate in a telephone interview for a process evaluation of the AREA programs. We expect the interview to take no more than 45 minutes.

**Please propose 2 or 3 dates and times between now and <DATE> when you are available. Please provide a telephone number so that we may contact you. A member of Westat's research team will follow-up with you via telephone to schedule a mutually agreeable time for the interview.**

Participation in the interview is voluntary, but your involvement will help ensure that AREA and similar future efforts are successful. Information shared in the interview is private under the Privacy Act. Data will be reported in the aggregate and will exclude personal identifiers.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Michelle M. Timmerman, Ph.D.  
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