

***Developing a Corporate Feedback System for Use in Curricular Reform
[Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)]
(USDOE)***

Funding Agency:

U.S. Department of Education (USDOE)

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Evaluation:

3 Years

\$141,384

Ohio's Evaluation and Assessment Center for Mathematics and Science Education (E & A Center) evaluates the project's ability to use assessment data regarding student performance to drive curriculum development. The assessment aligns experimental and cooperative education-based curricula with industrial needs. The goals of this project are to (a) develop baseline data with regard to students' industry performances; (b) develop Assessment Instrument II based upon prior findings and implement it; (c) develop and implement agreed upon 'Circular Upgrade Goals' for individual teams; and (d) institutionalize 'Feedback

Cycle' process to other departments and colleges.

The evaluation addresses several questions: (a) how effective are the project's assessment instruments in determining students' performance in industry; (b) how did participating programs implement changes based upon changes in circular goals; and (c) how has the program been institutionalized at other departments, colleges, and universities? The evaluation uses a mixed-methods approach. Pre- and post-questionnaire data are collected to provide a quantitative data source that could be used to track changes in student and employer outcomes for participating and comparative groups. Statistical analysis, such as Multivariate Regression and Item Response Theory (IRT), is used. The evaluation also includes qualitative measures, such as faculty focus groups, interviews, and expert panel reviews of redesigned departmental syllabi.

This project is currently being evaluated and results are inconclusive.

This evaluation expands the E & A Center's efforts to align cooperative education and industrial needs. This evaluation further demonstrates the Center's expertise in undergraduate education.