



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
INDUSTRY/UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTERS
Evaluation Project
Director's Inactive Sponsor Proxy Interview**

ASSUMPTIONS: This assessment activity is based on three assumptions: 1. Directors are in a good position to describe why a member is leaving the center because they will typically engage the member about this decision; 2. Getting the director's perspective on why the member is leaving is better than getting no information; 3. When the director is uncertain why a particular member has left, it may encourage them to give permission for an interview with the member.

PURPOSE OF THE DIRECTOR'S INACTIVE SPONSOR INTERVIEW: To gain a better understanding of director's perception of sponsors' expectations and motives for leaving centers, and eventually to make recommendations for how the IUCRC model and program evaluation thereof can be improved.

CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURANCE: Without explicit permission from the informant, responses to this survey will remain completely confidential. No Center's, respondent or member's identity will be included in any reports or statistics.

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is to be completed by the center evaluator following a telephone interview. If the respondent prefers to not answer any question, that is fine; proceed to the next item.

Center Name: _____

Please provide a numeric code for the member you are asking about: _____

Question 1.

For approximately how many years has the firm been a sponsor of the center? _____

Question 2.

A. Have you had any discussions with the member about their reason for not renewing their membership?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Which of the following responses best describes how informed you feel you are about why the member decided to not renew?

I am not really sure why they decided to not renew	I think I know some of the reasons but I am not certain I have the full story	I think they gave me a very candid explanation for why they were leaving

Question 3.

Over the past 12 months indicate the approximate # of times you or one of your staff have had the following kinds of contact with representatives of this member organization:

- _____ Telephone contact :
- _____ Email contact:
- _____ Saw member when they were attending IAB meetings (N of meetings attended):
- _____ Face-to-face contact outside of IAB meetings :

Question 4.

A. Based on your conversations with this member company, what do you believe are the main factors that led this member to withdraw from the Center?

please probe for whether any of the following reasons are relevant:

economic factors

cost benefit mismatch

needs mismatch

personnel issues

relevance of research to member needs

turnover in representative at member firm

issues related to center's operation

conflict with other members

firm planned to leave after a fixed time

B. Which single factor do you believe was most important in their decision to not renew their membership?

- economic factors
- cost benefit mismatch
- needs mismatch
- personnel issues
- relevance of research to member needs
- turnover in representative at member firm
- issues related to center's operation
- conflict with other members
- firm planned to leave after a fixed time
- other

Question 5.

Based on your knowledge of the member and conversations with their representative, do you think there is anything you or the center could have done differently that would have prevented them from leaving the center? Please describe.

Question 6.

A. Based on your conversations with their representative, how likely do you think it is that the member will rejoin the center?

Very likely	Somewhat likely	Unlikely	Don't know

B. [FOR FIRST THREE RESPONSES ASK] What makes you think they will/will not re-join? [PROBE TO FIND OUT BASIS FOR THEIR OPINION]

C. Are there any changes that you think the center must make in order to support their re-joining the center?

D. Is there anything you think NSF or the I/UCRC program could do to support their re-joining the center?

Question 7.

If you thought it would be productive, I could conduct an interview with the member representative to try to gather additional information about why they left and what might need to happen for them to re-join. Would you like me to conduct such an interview or not?

- Do not interview
- You have my permission to contact them

Member contact Information:

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, ARE THERE ANY PARTS OF YOUR FEEDBACK THAT YOU WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH ME INCLUDING IN MY ANNUAL EVALUATOR REPORT? WHICH PARTS?

TO BE COMPETED SEPARATELY BY EVALUATOR FROM ARCHIVAL SOURCES:

FROM MOST RECENT L.I.F.E. FORMS:

Question 8.

- _____ A. How many projects were rated as "Interested"?
- _____ B. How many projects were rated as "Interested with Change"?
- _____ C. How many projects were rated as "Not Interested"?
- _____ D. From how many projects did the member refrain from providing a rating?

FROM MOST RECENT INDUSTRY PROCESS/OUTCOME SURVEY

Question 10.

In what percentage of projects did the member indicate they were interested (i.e. Question 1 from the Industry P/O survey)?

0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%

Questions/Concerns about the questionnaire, please contact ncsuiucrc@ncsu.edu