I/UCRC Research Summary & Solicitation

What have we been doing the last thirty years?
Overview

• Background
• Questions and Approach
  – Categorization of Research Themes
• The Opportunity
• Solicitation of Research Proposals
• Proposed Research Ideas
• Status of Current Projects
• Questions / Discussion
Background

I/UCRC Evaluation Goals

Primary

• To help document IUCRC outcomes and accomplishments at both the center and program-level

• To promote continuous improvement at both the center and program level by providing data and analysis in a timely way that is actionable and helps identify best practices

Secondary

• To help promote a better understanding of industry/university research cooperation

Purpose of Evaluation Research

Measure effects of a program against the goals it sets out to accomplish as a way to guide subsequent decisions about a program and identify program improvements.
Approach

- Categorize evaluator research listed on NCSU website (N=80)
- Not an exhaustive review
- Effort to identify key themes

Goal: Highlight Existing Results

Are there research results that merit another look as we enter the next decade?
Research Themes 1980 - 2009

- Innovation/Tech Transfer, 33%
- "How to" Guides/Best Practices, 9%
- Descriptive/Historical, 11%
- Evaluation, 11%
- Center Admin/Management, 6%
- Sponsorship, 5%
- Industry, 6%
- Students, 7%
- Faculty, 3%
- Program-level Admin/Management; 9%
Some Research Contributions

• Action-oriented management recommendations
  – What structures and management practices facilitate innovation and tech transfer
  – Why industry and faculty members join—and stay—in Centers
  – How to recruit new members
  – How to manage and maintain an IU center for the long term
Conclusion

- I/UCRC Evaluation Research has provided value to NSF & other stakeholders with practical I/UCRC management measures and insights
- Continued success depends on you
The Opportunity: Data without tears

- Annual Survey: Cross-sectional and longitudinal database of center processes and outcomes
- LIFE forms provide measure of funding priorities and IAB agreement
  - With modest analysis effort LIFE data may also provide information about member satisfaction and investment in the center
- Social network analysis techniques
- Qualitative interviews
- Others?
Solicitation of Research Proposals

The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he is one who asks the right questions. 
—Claude Levi Strauss

Proposal Process
1. One page description
2. NSF & Peer review
3. Full proposal based on collective input
Proposed Research Ideas

• IAB Handbook

• Evaluation of I/UCRC collaboration tools: What works?

• Others?
Evaluator Research as of January 2010

• DVD (in progress?) & Compendium (done)

• Assessing the Post-Graduation Status of I/UCRCs: An Assessment of Self-Sufficiency and Indirect Impacts of Sustained I/UCRCs (awarded, on going)

• Impact of I/UCRC Directorship on Career Paths and Achievement (awarded, on going)
Questions / Discussion
Publication Information

- Thesis/Diss., 9%
- Tech Report (NSF), 35%
- Article, 41%
- Book/Chapter, 15%