Project Sustainability

Mary Lee Ledbetter
Joyce Evans

Broadening Impact: NSF-Funded Projects at Two-Year Colleges Conference
June 17, 2011
N $ F
National Science Foundation
Today’s Goal:

Promote sharing of ideas and actions towards project sustainability
Quick Poll

1) What program is your grant a part of?
2) How long have you had the grant?
3) Have you thought about its sustainability?
Think
Consider the question

Share
Discuss it at your table

Report
Let the other groups know your ideas.

Learn
What is your definition of sustainability?
What aspect(s) of your project needs sustaining and why?

i.e. what key features would you like to see continued after the NSF support is over?

What resources would be required?

Consider not only funding but also human and intellectual resources and even (dare I say it) good will.
How do you plan to sustain this aspect?

Can you identify potential barriers to progress?

At what level and in what context do the barriers exist?
Identify exemplars of successfully sustaining an aspect of a project (either in your own project or others you have known).
What barriers or pitfalls have you encountered?

How could they be overcome?
Some suggestions:

1. What is feasible in your institutional context?

2. From the beginning think about what the “surviving outcomes,” the long-term core contributions of your project are.

3. Adjust key aspects of the project as you go along, informed by assessment, to increase sustainability.

4. Collect data documenting the value of the core contributions.
What action(s) do you plan to undertake on your return to campus?
THANKS!