LEAD’s Current AN-MSI Evaluation Design: Dec 2000

Evaluation activities from July-Nov 2000:

**Evaluation planning and design:**

- Met in June with AN-MSI Community Leaders and EDUCAUSE and EOT-PACI representatives to begin enumerating AN-MSI’s goals and discussing ways of evaluating progress towards those goals.
- Attended the AN-MSI All Hands Meeting in July to explain LEAD’s perspective on evaluation and work with participants in developing the project’s goals, strategies, and ways of evaluating the project’s progress.
- Held periodic conference calls with AN-MSI project leaders from each of the three communities to assess their current evaluation needs and understand how the project is progressing within each community.
- Worked with Jack Barden to develop a baseline survey and goal statement to be used in collecting baseline data from the Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- Drafted a Goal Statement to be used as a baseline measure and as a guide for project implementation at each institution.

**Data collection:**

- Set up a database for the completed baseline surveys that Ramirez received from some HSIs and Davidson received from some HBCUs. (Current response rate is too low for a statistical analysis to be informative)
- Reviewed the data from national surveys of campus instructional technology that have already been conducted to determine their feasibility for providing the needed baseline data on MSIs (e.g., NAFEO’s “Assessment of Networking and Connectivity for HBCUs”).
- Collected documentation of AN-MSIs meetings, conference calls, and project development activities to date.
Evaluation plans for the next six months (Dec-May 2001):

Evaluation planning and design:
• Revise the current draft of the Goal Statement and develop protocols or guidelines for its use by the CATs.
• Determine the usefulness of existing survey data on campus IT infrastructures in describing the networking capabilities and IT usage of the three different communities at the “start” of the AN-MSI project. (Year 2000 or so)

Data collection:
• Interview the current AN-MSI project staff, Community Leaders, and Committee Chairs about their role in the AN-MSI project, their expectations, any obstacles the project has encountered, and the process of developing the AN-MSI community over the last year.
• Interview individuals from Williams Communications and EOT-PACI about their anticipated role in the project, their experiences working with selected campuses, obstacles encountered, and the effectiveness of various strategies.
• Track changes in institutions’ participation in the AN-MSI project and the “enrollment” of new institutions.
• Survey all AN-MSI meeting participants in May to collect information on their activities regarding the project, meeting and conference attendance, and feedback on AN-MSI.

Data use:
• Analyze all the interviews related to the AN-MSI project to determine the areas of greatest progress, areas of greatest concern, and next steps.
• Analyze meeting participant survey to assess AN-MSI’s strategies and processes for developing the project community and its goals over its first two years.
• Write an evaluation report for all AN-MSI stakeholders on the current status of the project with regard to community development, strategy development, and strategy implementation. Identify any obstacles, strategies for overcoming obstacles, and best practices. Use results of AN-MSI surveys and/or national surveys as background to describe the IT development and usage in each community prior to its involvement with AN-MSI.
• Use what has been learned form the evaluation to retool the evaluation design for the next year.