

NSF Grant Project Sharing

What is the name of your grant?

Enhancing the Resource Center Role of the National Center for Manufacturing Education (NCME)

What problem are you solving?

We are addressing the need of manufacturing educators to find current and relevant manufacturing education materials, professional development opportunities, and other resources to assist them in preparing tomorrow's manufacturing workforce.

What are the key deliverables?

1. To be a clearinghouse of readily accessible resources for improving manufacturing education
2. To provide support services related to manufacturing education
3. Dissemination

How are you organized and who is involved with your grant?

- We are a national resource center
- PIs: Monica Pfarr, Shep Anderson, Bob Wolff (UD), Hank Kraebber (Purdue)
- Other team members: Jim Houdeshell, Gilah Pomeranz, Faith Leeper, Derek Hardin, Anita Gilkey, Bob Mott (UD), Sean Falkowski (UD)

What results have been produced to this point?

1. Clearinghouse of resources at www.ncmeresource.org
2. Web seminars on topics in manufacturing education
3. Services for manufacturing educators (workshops, etc)

What is currently occurring?

1. We are seeking additional materials for the clearinghouse database
2. We are growing our offering of services
3. We are working with two other resource centers to develop a common searchable database for all of the ATE program, a common marketing strategy, and common evaluation plan

What 2-3 things are you really proud of from your grant that others could use?

1. Positive relationship with NSF, considered a resource to other projects/centers.
2. Actively engaged PIs that are well aware of all activities, meet on a regular basis and cohesively doing all the work.
3. Effective dissemination of our results.

What 2-3 lessons learned would you like to share that would be helpful to others?

1. Maintain communication with your program officer
2. Grant funds can be redirected for activities outside the original project scope. This requires formal approval and a submission via Fast Lane. Caution: The approval process through NSF can be very lengthy- so be prepared!

What major issues/challenges are you facing that you need advice/help?

Sustainability of the activity through institutionalization, continued funding, or other activities.