

## **Evaluating INBRE: Putting evaluation processes and data to work**

**Presented by** Laura Lessard, Laura Haas

**Description:** Evaluation processes to capture the reach and impact of INBREs have had to expand over time. Beyond support for the classic investigator-led research project, INBRE networks have been asked to expand their reach and their work with no increase in annual resources for the past 17 years. This session will explore strategies that use evaluation to drive program progress and decision making. We will start by learning about how internal and external evaluation needs are met by INBRE programs across the country. Then, evaluators from two states will share examples of novel evaluation use, including the following: • a cross-state project exploring the impact of INBRE funded summer undergraduate research programs, • using outcome data to strengthen student recruitment, • how evaluation-related activity itself can support programmatic priorities (eg, research collaboration, student engagement), and • how one INBRE is fostering research-supportive environments through structured institutional goal-setting. The presenters will engage the audience in sharing additional strategies they use for putting their evaluations to work.

**Session theme or topic:** Administrative Development, Evaluation

**Session format (Lecture, facilitated discussion, panel discussion, Q&A):** Panel Discussion

**3 anticipated participant learning outcomes:**

**Intended audience:** INBRE PI's Administrators, Evaluators

**Name, title, Institution/bio for each facilitator/presenter:**



**Laura Lessard**  
Director of Evaluation  
Delaware INBRE

Laura Lessard is the Director of Evaluation for Delaware INBRE and Assistant Professor of Behavioral Health and Nutrition at the University of Delaware. A professional evaluator for over 13 years, Dr. Lessard has experience evaluating programs and policies in diverse sectors including education, healthcare and social services. She has a PhD in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education from Emory University and an MPH from Tufts University.



**Laura Haas**  
Director of Evaluation and Operations  
New Mexico INBRE

Laura Haas is the New Mexico INBRE Director of Evaluation and Operations. She brings more than 20 years of relevant experience, including 14 years creating de novo evaluation processes for NIH- and CDC-funded research, training, and STEM education programs and 12 years working directly with faculty and research administrators to strengthen federal research proposals. She obtained her BA in writing from the University of Arizona and her MS in Biology from New Mexico State University. During free moments, you might catch her riding her horse Merlin among the quail and acacia of the New Mexico desert.

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