

Abstract # L-12-1083

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Gear: SecondGearType: Panel Length: OneHour

Abstract: Assessing Women in Engineering Programs: Implementation Challenges and Benefits

As colleges and universities face budget shortfalls, tuition costs rise and student enrollment falls. Many institutions of higher education face increased pressures to recoup some of these losses by increasing the enrollment of female students and students of color. Low enrollment of such students, especially in engineering and other "technical" fields, also pose extra challenges for American industry and government as they seek to create a more diverse workforce.

As individuals seek funding from private foundations or national agencies to develop or enhance programs supporting women or students of color in engineering schools, they are reminded of the importance of quality assessment data. The NSF grant, "Assessing Women in Engineering Programs: Developing Exportable tools for success", is addressing that important need.

This session will be a follow-up to the one presented at last year's WEPAN conference. Panelists from several different universities will discuss their participation in year two of the three-year, collaborative grant. The panel members will discuss such issues as the challenges and rewards of collaboration across institutions as well as the challenges of engaging overworked students to complete the assessment tools. Panel members will also discuss how their participation on the grant has impacted their WIE programs and how they plan to continue the enhanced assessment process after the NSF funding is no longer available.