SRI International

ITEST Evaluation Overview

March 1st, 2012
FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PRODUCTIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
Meaningful learning opportunities for teachers

EDUCATOR OUTCOMES
- Develop coherent plans
- Provide authentic experiences
- Assess teaching and learning
- Manage authentic learning environments
- Develop community of learners

INCREASED SYSTEM CAPACITY

STUDENT OUTCOMES
- Dispositions and capacities for future STEM study
- Successful attainment of STEM degrees
- Participation in STEM workforce

ITEST PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
- ITEST Projects
- Strategies
- Scale-Up
- Research
- Convening

Learning Resource Center

National dissemination of models, materials, and best practices

Strengthened teachers and youth development leaders
Research Questions

- How can we best characterize and describe ITEST projects?
  - What do the projects do?
  - Who do the projects serve?
  - Where and when are ITEST project activities taking place?

- What project models are most effective in delivering desired student and teacher outcomes? What project characteristics contribute to these models’ success?

- What are the projects’ impact?
  - What are the achieved outcomes in key areas for students and teachers in ITEST projects?
  - Do youth who participate in ITEST projects demonstrate greater interest in STEM activities and careers than nonparticipants?
  - To what extent are project evaluations rigorous?
ITEST Portfolio Analysis

- Program description
  - Examine ITEST solicitations
  - Interview program officers
  - Characterize the role of the LRC

- Project descriptions
  - Gather and analyze data from the MIS
  - Gather and analyze data from the eJackets

- Project evaluations
  - Characterize evaluations
  - Assess quality and rigor
  - Document outcomes
Case Studies

- Visits to 24 projects

- Multiple on-site activities
  - Interviews with PI, project staff, local evaluator, partners
  - Focus groups of participants
  - Observations of project activities

- Case study sampling
  - Promising projects
  - Variation in projects (e.g., variation in topic area, project components, and project format)
Thank You