

SSI Advisory Board Evaluation Summary April 2008

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CGS Part of SSI Evaluation

- Using business-education partnerships to influence student course-taking (Goal I)
- Also evaluating WICHE's administration of SSI



Business-Education Partnerships and Student Course-taking

- Array of primary and secondary data sources
- 16 evaluation findings, 8 policy and program implications



Findings: Employer Role in SSI

- Personal connection with students most effective business role
- Employer role:
 - Classroom presentation
 - Information about workforce needs
 - Message of rigor and relevance
- 9 of 10 planned to continue involvement
- Belief that rigor is important



Findings: SSI and Education Reform

- All state partnerships connected to other reform initiatives
- Variations in defining “rigor”
- More awareness about rigorous academic preparation, school improvement, key benefits



Findings: Program Implementation

- Wide variation in partnership structure – state and local levels
- Creative and effective practices abound
- Local control, resources constrain data
- Sustainability is ***the*** challenge



Implications of Findings

1. Defining rigor
2. Differentiating SSI
3. Directors' support
4. Productivity opportunities
 - Volunteer management database
 - National marketing strategy
 - Promising/effective practices database
5. Disconnect b/w funding, outcome data
6. Local champions key to sustainability



WICHE Program Administration

- Highly effective second year : every aspect of cooperative agreement met or exceeded
- Key success factors:
 - State directors
 - Advisory board
 - WICHE staff team and leadership
 - ED support



Improvement Opportunities

- Knowledge capture
- Leverage Advisory Board's know-how
- Support new state directors
- Further administrative streamlining
- Promising/effective practices
- Time-sensitive policy decisions

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Thank You!

