

## Multiple Uses of Evaluation Findings: The LSAMP Experience

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### Abstract

Recently, targeted programs to broaden participation (BP) in STEM fields and careers have been put in the spotlight. They have received national attention from federal agencies such as the Government Accounting Office (GAO), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the American Competitiveness Council (ACC) as well as respected institutions such as the National Academies and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. With this increased scrutiny have come heightened reporting and accountability requirements as well as greater pressure to produce reliable evaluation data. Within this context, we describe our experience in evaluating one of NSF's largest targeted BP programs, the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP). We discuss our view of evaluation as having multiple uses, including meeting reporting requirements to demonstrate effectiveness, informing decision making, guiding program development, and contributing to the knowledge base. Using the LSAMP evaluation as a model, we illustrate how the evaluation was designed and implemented to serve these multiple uses.

<http://www.urban.org/publications/311299.html> (dissemination report, 31 pages)

<http://www.urban.org/publications/411301.html> (technical report, 255 pages)

Thank you for your time and interest -

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