

**National Science Foundation  
Industry/University  
Cooperative Research Centers**



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*2014-2015 Process Outcome Survey Results*

*Descriptive Statistics Compiled from Industry and Faculty Surveys*

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## **REPORT PROCESSING & DATA ISSUES**

This report provides descriptive statistics on the IUCRC Process Outcome Questionnaires. Data were collected during the fall of 2015 and refer to the Center activity for FY 2014-2015.

Since most evaluators use this report to benchmark their Center compared to a program-wide “norm”, we have reported “Center-level” means and standard deviations, with the exception of the sections on Research Cost Avoidance, Research Savings, and Stimulated New Research (see below). That is, means (unweighted) for each center were used to calculate a Center-level mean. Because questions that require a numeric answer (e.g. number of dollars) often have highly skewed distributions, we also reported the medians for these variables. For forced choice questions, frequencies for individual respondents were also reported.

### ***Industry Questionnaires***

All data were collected using a single industry questionnaire form. See the I/UCRC Evaluation project website for current and past versions of the surveys (<http://www.ncsu.edu/iucrc/ResourcesForEvaluators.htm#Surveys>).

### ***Faculty Questionnaires***

The faculty questionnaire includes two versions: a long version (13 items) that is used by centers during the first phase (in year 1-5) and a short version (6 items) that is used by centers during the second and third phase (in year 6-15) of NSF funding. Since both the faculty long and faculty short questionnaires share some of the same questions, data for these shared questions were pooled for analysis. In the tables below, questions only included in the long version are noted as follows: (L).

## RESPONSE RATES

Category	Center Level		Individual Level	
	Industry	Faculty	Industry	Faculty
<b><i>Response Frequency</i></b>				
Continuing Population from CD report	73	73	1224	1052
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Reporting Population from CD report	+0	+0	+0	+0
Retired/Defunct Centers	4	4	16	13
Retired/Defunct Centers Reporting <sup>a</sup>	+1	+1	+12	+3
Phase III Centers Exempt	5	5	112	126
Phase III Centers Reporting <sup>b</sup>	+3	+2	+39	+28
Population <sup>c</sup>	68	67	1,147	944
Centers Excused from Evaluation <sup>d</sup>	3	3	48	39
Centers that did not return data	3	8	58	58
Available Population <sup>e</sup>	62	56	1,041	847
Data Received	62	56	450	346
Received / Population	91.18%	83.58%	39.23%	36.65%
Received / Available Population	100%	100%	43.23%	40.85%

- a. Retired/defunct Centers are not required to submit data, but some do submit some data. If relevant, those data were included in the analysis.
- b. For Phase III Centers entering the program in 2011 under solicitation 09-565, process outcome data collection is optional. No other program solicitation provide that option. Phase III Centers entering after 2011 are included in the continuing population.
- c. Population was defined as centers that were at least 1 year old.
- d. Centers were excused for reasons such as being in the midst of center restructuring and respondent refusal to complete surveys.
- e. Numbers based on population minus excused and not returned counts.

## **LONG FACULTY FORM VS. SHORT FACULTY FORM**

	<b>Long Form</b>	<b>Short Form</b>
<b># of items</b>	13	6
<b># of questions in common</b>	6	6
<b># of unique questions</b>	7	0
<b># of Centers using form</b>	27	16
<b>Sample size</b>	106	240

# Industry Results: 2014-2015

**Table 1: Research Program**

1. Think about the currently funded Center research projects:												<b>Center Level</b>			
		0-19% (1)		20-39% (2)		40-59% (3)		60-79% (4)		80-100% (5)		Missing Data			
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.	
a. Percentage of currently funded research projects relevant to the organization's current or future R&D needs.		55	12.3	111	24.9	124	27.8	111	24.9	45	10.1	4	2.98	0.82	
												<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>		
b. Number of scientist-months (full-time) your organization would take to plan, conduct, and complete a typical Center project internally <i>Sample: N of respondents = 445; N of centers = 64</i>												16.11	8.58		
c. Number of the Center's research projects considered high enough priority that your organization would conduct internally or by contract within the next few years if the Center was not doing this research <i>Sample: N of respondents = 448; N of centers = 64</i>												2.40	1.06		
												Mean N of Center Projects	SD N of Center Projects	Mean % of Projects Avoided	SD % of Projects Avoided
Average percent of the Center's research projects considered high enough priority that the organization would conduct internally or by contract % projects avoided = N of avoided projects (Q1c)/N of Center projects <i>Sample: N of centers reporting N of Projects = 62, N of respondents = 441</i>												13.98	8.88	20.15	9.69

**RCA**

<b>Research Cost Avoidance Estimates** for Center Members:</b>				
<p>Research Cost avoidance (RCA) is defined as savings a member obtains by having "necessary" research projects performed by a center rather than performing them internally. The following RCA estimates are based on a member's report of the number of projects they consider a "high enough priority they would conduct internally" (Q1c), number of scientist months it would take to complete a project (Q1b), the cost of a scientist month (based on archival data), and cost of center membership (archival data). For a more detailed explanation of how this estimate is calculated see Appendix A.</p>				
Average Research Cost Avoidance (RCA)				
<b>Member Level Scores</b>		Mean	Median	S.D.
a. Average dollar value (in thousands) of avoided projects per respondent organization Av.RCA member = (N of projects * N of months * Average salary per month) – Primary Fee <i>Sample: N of respondents = 441, N of centers = 64</i>		631.15	318.54	1173.70
<b>Center Level Scores</b>		Mean	Median	S.D.
b. Average dollar value (in thousands) of avoided projects per respondent organization <i>Sample: N of respondents = 441, N of centers = 64</i>		4351.59	3005.91	4707.13
<b>Program Level Scores</b>		Sum		
c. Total dollar value of avoided projects by respondent organizations RCA program = Av.RCA member x N of members <i>Average derived from sample: N of respondents = 441, N of centers = 64</i>		\$278,502,053		
*70 members (16%) have negative RCA that results in large standard deviation. ** It is worth noting that since only 39% of members completed the questionnaire; this is a very conservative estimate of the value of accelerated/avoided projects supported by members.				

2. During the past year, how satisfied were you with the following features of the Center's research program?

	<b>Individual Frequencies</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
	Not Satisfied (1)		Slightly Satisfied (2)		Somewhat satisfied (3)		Quite Satisfied (4)		Very Satisfied (5)		Missing Data	Mean	S.D.
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		
a. Capabilities of the researchers & quality of the research program	0	0.0	5	1.1	49	10.9	207	46.2	187	41.7	2	4.33	0.44
b. Breadth of the research topics covered	3	0.7	11	2.5	93	20.8	229	51.2	111	24.8	3	4.00	0.42
c. Focus of the research	2	0.4	16	3.6	119	26.6	204	45.5	107	23.9	2	3.90	0.47
d. Relevance of research to my organization's needs	8	1.8	30	6.9	131	30.0	181	41.4	87	19.9	13	3.71	0.53

**Table 2: Benefits**

A. Networking and Human Resource Benefits

	<b>Individual Frequencies</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
	No Impact (1)		Slight Impact (2)		Moderate Impact (3)		High Impact (4)		Very High Impact (5)		Missing Data	Mean	S.D.
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		
4a. Enhanced cooperation and networking with industry and university scientists outside your organization	11	2.5	66	15.2	165	38.1	136	31.4	55	12.7	17	3.25	0.55
4b. Enhanced ability to identify and recruit well-qualified graduate students you would like to hire.*	118	31.9	78	21.1	96	25.9	48	13.0	30	6.7	80	2.42	0.68

\*For 4b, 80% (N=64) of answers coded as "missing" (Total N=80) represent "not applicable." In other words, for the majority of industry representatives who did not answer this question recruitment of students is considered as not applicable for their organizations.

4c. During the past year, how many students trained in the Center research projects were hired by your organization?

Sample: N of members = 435; N of centers = 64

	<b>Member Level</b>	
	Mean	S.D.
<b>Member Level Scores</b>		
a. Number of students hired per respondent organization	0.34	1.09
<b>Center Level Scores</b>		
b1. Number of students hired per respondent organization per center	0.35	0.48
b2. Number of students hired by respondent organizations per center	2.31	2.97
<b>Program Level Scores</b>		
c. Total number of students hired by respondent organizations	148	

B. Research & Development Benefits				
	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
5a. During the past year, access to Center research findings and outputs has helped accelerate the pace and/or completion of some R&D projects already underway ( <i>or contracted by</i> ) at the organization.	239	53.3	209	46.7
5b. During the past year, access to Center research findings and outputs has helped the organization to decide against <i>starting one or more new R&amp;D projects that otherwise would have been initiated.</i>	243	54.0	205	45.8

### Research Cost Savings

If yes, taking into account personnel, facility and related costs how much would you estimate *your organization saved by shortening project completion-time, reducing costs and/or by choosing not to start new research?*  
*Sample: all respondents: N of respondents = 450; N of Centers = 64*

Member Level Scores	Member Level		
	Mean	Median	S.D.
a. Dollar value of accelerated/avoided projects (in thousands) per respondent organization	139.67	50.00	246.35
Center Level Scores	Center Level		
	Mean	Median	S.D.
b. Dollar value of accelerated/avoided projects (in thousands) per center	997.62	625.00	1004.70
Program Level Scores	Program Level		
	c. Total dollar value of accelerated/avoided projects supported by respondent organizations		
			\$62,850,000

\* It is worth noting that since only 39% of members completed the questionnaire; this is a very conservative estimate of the value of accelerated/avoided projects supported by members.

### Interpreting Research Cost Savings

- The average member saved \$139.67K in R&D costs in the last year as a result of participation in the IUCRC program.
- Center's have an average of 17 members. The average Center saved its members \$997.62K in R&D costs in the last year as a result of participation in the IUCRC program.
- There were 73 active Centers, serving 1224 members in FY2014-2015. The IUCRC program saved participating companies a total of \$62.9M in R&D costs in the last year as a result of participation in the IUCRC program.
- These figures are based on feedback from firms responding to this survey. Member response rate was 43% (450 out of the available population of 1,041 responded to the survey) from 62 centers included in the data collection. Therefore, these are conservative estimates of the Research Cost Savings at the member, center and program levels.



	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
5c. During the past year, access to Center research findings/outputs has triggered development of new R&D projects at my organization, or significantly redirected <i>pending projects within my organization</i> .	195	43.9	249	56.1

<b>Stimulated Research Projects</b>			
<b>Member Level Scores</b>	<b>Member Level</b>		
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>S.D.</b>
<b>Includes All Cases</b>			
a. Number of center-stimulated research projects per respondent organization <i>Sample: N of respondents = 438 ; N of centers = 64</i>	0.75	0.00	1.07
b. Dollar value of center-stimulated projects (in thousands) per respondent organization <i>Sample: all respondents: N of respondents = 425; N of Centers = 64</i>	145.93	0.00	391.00
<b>Includes Only Cases Citing 1 or more projects</b>			
c. Number of center-stimulated research projects per respondent organization <i>Sample: N of respondents = 196; N of Centers = 58</i>	1.67	1.00	0.99
d. Dollar value of center-stimulated projects (in thousands) per respondent organization <i>Sample: N of respondents = 205 ; N of Centers = 58</i>	302.55	150.00	519.75
e. Dollar value of each center-stimulated project (in thousands) <i>Sample: N of respondents = 181; N of Centers = 56</i>	195.07	100.00	275.35
	<b>Center Level</b>		
<b>Center Level Scores</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>S.D.</b>
<b>Includes All Cases</b>			
f. Number of center-stimulated research projects per center <i>Sample: N of respondents = 433 ; N of Centers = 64</i>	5.12	3.00	4.96
g. Dollar value of center-stimulated projects (in thousands) per center <i>Sample: all respondents: N of respondents = 425; N of Centers = 64</i>	969.09	562.50	131.52
	<b>Program Level</b>		
<b>Program Level Scores</b>			
h. Total number of center stimulated projects supported by respondent organizations <i>Sample: N of respondents = 418; N of Centers = 64</i>		328	
i. Total dollar value of center-stimulated projects supported by respondent organizations <i>Sample: all respondents: N of respondents = 426; N of Centers = 64</i>		\$62,022,000	
j. Total dollar value of center-stimulated projects supported by total estimated population based on mean. <i>All respondents: N of Total Population Estimated = 1147; N of Centers = 68</i>		\$167,381,710	

\* It is worth noting that since only 39% of members completed the questionnaire; this is a very conservative estimate of the value of center stimulated projects supported by members.

C. Commercial Benefits

6a. During the past year, to what extent has participation in the Center enhanced your organization's commercialization efforts via new technical knowledge; expanded intellectual property resources; improved or new products, processes, services, improved sales; or new or retained jobs?

<b>Individual Frequencies</b>												<b>Center Level</b>		
No Impact 1		Slight Impact 2		Moderate Impact 3		High Impact 4		Very High Impact 5		N/A 9		Missing Data		
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
100	22.8	99	22.6	96	21.9	65	14.8	16	3.6	62	14.1	11	2.36	1.22

**Table 3: Center Administration and Operations**

7. During the past year, how satisfied were you with center administrative operations?														
<b>Individual Frequencies</b>												<b>Center Level</b>		
Not Satisfied (1)		Slightly Satisfied (2)		Satisfied (3)		Quite Satisfied (4)		Very Satisfied (5)		Missing Data				
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
3	0.7	11	2.5	61	14.1	215	49.5	144	33.2	16		16	4.06	0.47

8. How can the Center improve its administration and operations? Please mark areas that need improvement.

	<b>Individual Frequencies</b>	
	<b>N of Responses</b>	<b>% of Respondents*</b>
a. Planning the Research Program	69	15.3
b. Project Selection	91	20.2
c. Project Development and Management	61	13.6
d. Dissemination of Results via Publications	63	14.0
e. Technology Transfer	75	16.7
f. Intellectual Property Management	35	7.8
g. Fundraising & Recruiting New Members	101	22.4
h. IAB Meeting Planning	26	5.8
i. IAB Meeting Content	16	3.6
j. IAB Meeting Execution	22	4.9
k. IAB Meeting Follow-up	39	8.7
l. Communications	70	15.6
m. Center Personnel	12	2.7
n. Other	27	6.0
Total N	707	157.3

\*Respondents were encouraged to check as many boxes as applied. Therefore, the percentage across all items may total to greater than 100%.

**Table 4: General Evaluation**

9. Will your organization renew its membership?												
<b>Individual Frequencies</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
Definitely Not (1)		Probably Not (2)		Uncertain (3)		Probably Yes (4)		Definitely Yes (5)		Missing Data		
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
2	0.5	11	2.5	57	13.2	202	46.8	160	37.0	18	4.14	0.47

11. Organization Type/Size		
<b>Individual Frequencies</b>		
	N	%
1. For-Profit Large (> 500 Employees)	247	56.3
2. For-Profit Small (11- 500 Employees)	78	17.8
3. For Profit-Micro (< 10 Employees)	30	6.8
4. Government (Federal/State/Local)	48	10.9
5. Non-Profit / Other	36	8.2
Total Reported	439	100%

# Faculty Results: 2014-2015

**Table 1: Research**

1. Compared to the research projects that you typically conduct outside the Center, would you describe your Center funded research as: (L)*												
<b>Individual Frequencies</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
Much more basic (1)		More basic (2)		Same (3)		More Applied (4)		Much more applied (5)		Missing Data*		
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
2	1.9	2	1.9	41	38.7	57	53.8	4	3.8	1	3.52	0.43

\* Indicates a question that is unique to the long version of the faculty questionnaire.

2. During the past year, how satisfied were you with the following?													
	<b>Individual Level</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
	Not Satisfied (1)		Slightly Satisfied (2)		Somewhat Satisfied (3)		Quite Satisfied (4)		Very Satisfied (5)		Missing Data		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
a. Quality of the Center-supported research program	1	0.3	5	1.4	38	11.0	128	37.0	174	50.3	1	4.35	0.36
b. Relevance of the Center's research program to my professional goals	1	0.3	8	2.3	38	11.0	125	36.3	172	50.0	3	4.38	0.37

**Table 2: Impact**

4. During the past year, what impact has participation in the Center had for YOU in the following areas? (L)*													
	<b>Individual Level</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
	No Impact (1)		Somewhat Positive Impact (2)		Moderately Positive Impact (3)		Very Positive Impact (4)		Extremely Positive Impact (5)		Missing Data		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
a. The feeling of accomplishment I get from the research I do.	5	4.7	6	5.7	18	17.0	50	47.2	27	25.5	1	3.68	0.74
b. Opportunities for research contracts/grants.	6	5.7	6	5.7	26	24.8	40	38.1	27	25.7	2	3.61	0.70
c. Recognition I receive for the work I do.	5	4.8	10	9.5	28	26.7	41	39.0	21	20.0	2	3.59	0.76
d. Access to useful equipment.	15	14.4	18	17.3	24	23.1	25	24.0	22	21.2	3	3.15	0.89
e. Ability to support graduate students.	9	8.6	8	7.6	19	18.1	34	32.4	35	33.3	2	3.65	0.83
f. Ability to publish my work in quality proceedings and journals.	11	10.6	7	6.7	18	17.3	43	41.3	25	24.0	3	3.52	0.75

\* Indicates a question that is unique to the long version of the faculty questionnaire.

**Table 3: Commitment**

5. Which option best expresses your current intentions?													
	<b>Individual Frequencies</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
	Definitely Not (1)		Probably Not (2)		Uncertain (3)		Probably Yes (4)		Definitely Yes (5)		Missing Data		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
Next year I will submit my best research ideas in a center funded proposal*	10	3.0	21	6.2	57	16.6	114	33.0	142	41.2	2	3.95	0.68

\* Item presented for the first time on the 2006-2007 Faculty Questionnaire

**Table 4: Satisfaction**

6. During the past year, how satisfied were you with center administrative operations?													
	<b>Individual Frequencies</b>											<b>Center Level</b>	
	Not Satisfied (1)		Slightly Satisfied (2)		Somewhat Satisfied (3)		Quite Satisfied (4)		Very Satisfied (5)		Missing Data		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	S.D.
	6	1.8	8	2.3	31	9.1	118	34.5	179	52.3	5	4.27	0.48

## Appendix A

### Calculation of Research Cost Avoidance for Center Members:

Research cost avoidance is a way of estimating one benefit firms may realize from center participation. *Research cost avoidance is defined as savings a firm obtains by having “necessary” research projects performed by a center rather than performing them internally.* If a firm reports that a particular “necessary” project would cost \$100,000 to carry out internally (counterfactual estimate) but that project was actually carried out by a center to which they pay a \$50,000 membership fee that firm has avoided \$50,000 of R&D costs. A firm’s research cost avoidance (RCA) can be estimated by knowing a firm’s costs to carry out a project ( $C_f$ ) and the cost of center membership ( $C_c$ ).  $C_f$  can be calculated by knowing: number of center projects a firm considers “high enough priority they would have conducted them internally or by contract” ( $N_{\text{projects}}$ ), how many scientist months those projects would take to complete ( $N_{\text{SM}}$ ), the cost of a scientist month ( $C_{\text{sm}}$ ). Member firms provide estimates of  $N_{\text{projects}}$  (Q1c) and  $N_{\text{SM}}$  (Q1). We obtain estimates of  $C_{\text{sm}}$ <sup>1</sup> from archival sources and  $C_c$  from center records. The formula for obtaining an estimate for cost avoidance is:

$$RCA = \sum C_f - C_c.$$

$C_f$  is calculated as follows:  $C_f = N_{\text{projects}} \times N_{\text{SM}} \times C_{\text{sm}}$ .

Once a firm’s cost avoidance has been estimated, one can calculate the average RCA for members in a particular center or for the whole program and RCA totals for a given center or program. For a more detailed description of research supporting this estimate please refer to: Gray, D.O. & Steenhuis, H-J (2003). Quantifying the benefits of participating in an industry university research center: An examination of research cost avoidance. *Scientometrics*, 58, 281-300.

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<sup>1</sup> In an attempt to develop a conservative and defensible estimate of firm costs, we used salary data from the Engineering Workforce Commission as the basis for our calculations. More specifically, we used data from the *Engineers’ Salaries: Special Industry Report, 2011* survey as our starting point. Industry costs were calculated by using the median salary for individual with a PhD, who was early career (4+ years), and in the appropriate field for the industry in question (e.g., engineering). This value was multiplied by 1.35 to reflect a conservative estimate of fringe benefit costs and then multiplied by 1.50 to reflect a conservative overhead rate. This annual rate was then divided by 12 (and rounded to the nearest thousand) to produce an estimate of the cost/month for an industry scientist.