NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 09/02/2015

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Jennifer Jessup
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 07/07/2015

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201507-0648-001
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Evaluation Support Services
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0721
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 09/30/2018 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	1,473	599	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	1,473	599	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Dominic J. Mancini
Acting Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Web surveys of scholarship recipients and comparison applicant-only group	NA, NA, NA, NA	NOAA Career Pathways Surveys - Scholarship recipient and comparison group, Survey intro screen shots, Scholarship recipient surven screen shots, Comparison group survey screen shots	
Site visits - students, directors, faculty, partner institutions, community partners	NA	Site visit interview and focus group scripts	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/Office of Education

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 -_____ b. [ ] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [✔] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [ ] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify:_____

7. Title Evaluation Support Services

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords

10. Abstract

The proposed evaluation will examine the effectiveness of two of NOAA's Office of Education scholarship programs: EPP and HUSP. It will also assess the efficacy of four Cooperative Science Centers, which constitute another educational component central to NOAA's educational mission. The primary objective of this evaluation is to determine how well NOAA's HUSP and EPP scholarship programs translate to measurable outcomes for participants.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. P Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents 1,473
b. Total annual responses 1,473
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 96 %
c. Total annual hours requested 599
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference _____
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change _____
2. Adjustment _____

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M) 0
c. Total annualized cost requested 0
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference _____
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change _____
2. Adjustment _____

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management
b. P Program evaluation f. ___ Research
c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [✔] Recordkeeping b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [ ] Reporting
1. [ ] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [✔] Other (describe) One time

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[✔] Yes [ ] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Meka Laster
Phone: (301) 628-2906

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by Meka Laster	Date 07/06/2015
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER, cn=BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Date: 2015.09.14 14:23:24 -04'00'	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
EVALUATION SUPPORT SERVICES
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) justification for a new information collection. The Office of Education (OEd) at NOAA is requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to collect information on the scholarship recipients and institutions that have received funding through two key NOAA scholarship programs to date: the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP) and the Educational Partnership Program (EPP). As part of the "Evaluation Support Services" study, NOAA OEd will sponsor a Web survey to a sample of 1,878 scholarship recipients and nonrecipients (nonrecipients will serve as a comparison group). In addition, NOAA will conduct 15 in-depth interviews with the faculty, staff, and students at each of four EPP Cooperative Science Center (CSC) institutions that have received support through the scholarship programs. This comprehensive mixed-methods evaluation is described in further detail below.

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

NOAA's OEd serves a critical function as the nation's primary educator on matters related to the ocean, coastal resources, the atmosphere, and climate. One of the ways NOAA fulfills its national duty is by providing educational resources and scholarship opportunities for future scholars. The NOAA OEd scholarship programs offer students the opportunity to study a wide range of NOAA mission-related fields. These include, but are not limited to, the following: oceanic, environmental, biological, and atmospheric sciences; mathematics; engineering; remote sensing technology; physical and social sciences including geography, physics, hydrology, and geomatics; and teacher education in a related area. This study will focus on two specific NOAA scholarship programs: HUSP and EPP. EPP is an umbrella program that includes the EPP Undergraduate Scholarship Program (USP), the EPP Graduate Sciences Program (GSP), and EPP-funded CSCs. Both HUSP and EPP offer undergraduate students tuition support and a paid internship opportunity in NOAA-related major fields of study. In addition, EPP targets underrepresented groups, and partners with several Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to serve postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students, as well as faculty at CSCs.

The programs are intended to increase undergraduate training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and encourage recipients to pursue a career in oceanic and atmospheric public service. Moreover, the underrepresentation of minorities in STEM fields has been a source of concern in recent years (Robinson, Rousseau, Mapp, Morris, & Laster, 2007). For example, Black and Hispanic scientists and engineers are unemployed at a rate two-thirds higher than that of their White counterparts and represent only 11 percent of employees working in science and engineering occupations (National Science Foundation, 2015). The focus of NOAA's EPP is to address this issue by partnering with MSIs to support

students from underrepresented communities as they gain relevant research experience and complete degrees. In turn, the program aims to produce well-trained scientists and enhance the NOAA-related workforce.

However, to ensure the goals of NOAA scholarship programs are met, the programs themselves must be assessed and improved consistently. Therefore, the first evaluation of NOAA's OEd scholarship programs aims to address the following program-specific research questions:

A. HUSP:

1. To what extent do recipients gain knowledge and training in NOAA mission fields?
2. Does the scholarship shape recipients' academic and career plans?
3. What do scholars value about their HUSP experience?
4. What challenges did the scholar experience while participating in the program?
5. What areas would be best targeted for future investment?
6. What are comparable programs that provide similar experiences for recipients?

B. EPP:

1. To what extent do recipients gain knowledge and training in NOAA mission fields?
2. Does the scholarship shape recipients' academic and career plans?
3. What do scholars value about their USP experience?
4. What challenges did the scholar experience while participating in the program?
5. What areas would be best targeted for future investment?
6. What are comparable programs that provide similar experiences for recipients?

C. CSC:

1. To what extent does the CSC influence student outcomes?
2. To what extent does the CSC expand university outreach and partnership activities?
3. How does the CSC raise awareness at the home institution and partner institutions of NOAA-related opportunities and efforts?
4. To what extent do CSC faculty members generate new research or management products in NOAA mission fields?
5. What are participants' (administrators, faculty, staff, and students) perceptions of the CSC?
6. What kinds of partnerships are most challenging or beneficial?
7. Which CSC activities are in need of greater time or financial resources?

To address these research questions, this comprehensive mixed-methods evaluation will include the following components:

- Reviews of extant data to understand the program and historical trends

- Web surveys of HUSP and EPP alumni with telephone follow-up to describe participant experiences and outcomes
- A regression discontinuity design evaluation of HUSP, EPP USP, and EPP GSP to compare scholarship recipients to similar applicants who did not receive scholarships
- Site visits – including 15 in-depth interviews with faculty, staff, and students at each of the four CSCs – to describe institution-level contexts and outcomes

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with the applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The purpose of collecting information about the HUSP and EPP scholarship programs is to determine whether the NOAA scholarship programs increase opportunities and career outcomes for recipients versus nonrecipients. The educational and career outcomes of scholarship participants will be compared to those of individuals who applied for but did not receive the HUSP or EPP scholarships in an impact analysis using the a regression discontinuity design (RDD). If the HUSP and EPP scholarship programs successfully meet their goals, more students, including those from underrepresented groups, will graduate from university in STEM and NOAA-related majors, attend graduate school, and undertake careers in STEM and NOAA-related fields.

A secondary purpose of this information collection effort is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the HUSP and EPP scholarship programs. By identifying how and in what ways the HUSP and EPP programs have helped serve student scholars and how these programs can be improved, NOAA can further refine its programming and target efforts for future investment.

The purpose of collecting information related to the CSCs is to evaluate these centers' efficacy in training students in NOAA-related fields. To support the EPP's goal to serve underrepresented groups in STEM, the four CSCs have formed partnerships with community organizations and other universities across the United States. One of the main functions of CSC partnerships is to educate, train, and disseminate valuable information in NOAA-related fields. Given this objective, a primary goal of this data collection effort is to understand how CSCs use their technological resources to educate, train, and otherwise support students at MSIs. It also aims to understand what kinds of partnerships are most challenging or beneficial. Based on this information, NOAA OEd can better allocate future funds and resources.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electric, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Information from current and former HUSP and EPP scholarship applicants and recipients will be collected via a Web-based survey administered over the course of 6 weeks. This Web-based survey will be the primary method of data collection, as it offers an efficient means of reaching HUSP and EPP alumni who may be widely dispersed. Using updated alumni contact information that is available to NOAA via the OEd's Student and Performance Measures Tracking System

and Undergraduate Scholarship Programs Application System, respondents will be emailed an invitation to participate that includes a link to the online survey.

The team will use a multi-tiered approach to obtain updated contact information for survey respondents whose information from NOAA is incomplete or out-of-date. First, for those with no listed email address, we will attempt to retrieve email addresses through an online search. We will also follow any possible connections to colleges or universities based on available information. When possible, we will try to contact the individual through social media sites such as LinkedIn or Facebook. Next, if we are unable to obtain email addresses through these means, or if the email addresses we retrieve prove to be invalid, we will obtain postal mailing addresses and/or telephone numbers through LexisNexis. We will send postcards to those individuals with postal mailing addresses to ask them to provide their email information by forwarding it to an email address set up for the study or by calling a toll-free number. We will call persons for whom LexisNexis obtains telephone numbers but no mailing addresses and similarly ask these individuals to provide us with their email addresses. For those whose postcards are returned due to incorrect address information or who do not respond to the postal mailing, we will follow up via telephone if we have valid telephone numbers for those individuals. Once we have obtained accurate current email addresses, we will provide each respondent with a secure individual passcode to log onto the survey.

Potential respondents who have not submitted a survey after several follow-up online reminders within the first 6 weeks will be contacted to schedule a telephone follow-up. Given the young age distribution of the respondents, we estimate that most will opt to take the online version of the survey rather than schedule a telephone interview. The online survey will be consistent with the attached paper version and will include the OMB Control Number and expiration date. NOAA anticipates that a minimum of 75 percent of these participants will respond to the email invitation to complete the Web-based survey. Insight Policy Research, Inc. (Insight), the contractor for this study, has experience with OMB approved data collections. For one recent survey, “Enhancing Completion Rates for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Quality Control Reviews for the USDA” (OMB Control No. 0584-0590), Insight achieved a 91 per cent response rate. Based on this information and Insight’s expertise, we expect a high level of responsiveness from participants.

4. <u>Describe efforts to identify duplication.</u>

Currently, there is no similar data collection available. Every effort has been made to avoid duplication, and the Web survey includes questions not previously asked of NOAA scholars in relation to their individual outcomes and educational trajectories. The CSCs undergo an evaluation during the third year of a 5-year grant award. This information will be used whenever possible during CSC site visits rather than collecting similar metrics. Given that there has been no previous effort to examine all four CSCs systematically during a single evaluation, the likelihood of duplicating information collection is minimal.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

NOAA has determined the requirements for this information collection do not adversely impact small businesses or other small entities. There are no small businesses used in this data collection. All new data collection is with HUSP and EPP applicants and alumni.

6. Describe the consequence to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

Obtaining information related to the outcomes and achievements of HUSP and EPP applicants and alumni are critical to the evaluation of the scholarship programs, to NOAA's educational mission, and to supporting minority students in NOAA's mission-related fields. If these data are not collected, critical information related to these scholarship programs' successes and challenges cannot be evaluated for the betterment of the programs and NOAA's educational missions.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

There are no special circumstances.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on April 29, 2015 (80 FR 23773) solicited comments on this request. No comments were received.

Our team consulted with each of the four CSC directors to ensure that we had a comprehensive understanding of the program data, including the directors' perspectives on the creation of program measures and evaluation. The directors' names and contact information are displayed in Table A.8.1.

Table A.8.1.
CSC Director Contact Information

Name	CSC Affiliation	Address	Phone Number
Vernon Morris, Ph.D.	NOAA Center for Atmospheric Science at Howard University (NCAS)	HURB-1 Building Room 302 1840 7th Street NW Washington, DC 20001	(202) 806-8678
Reza Khanbilvardi, Ph.D.	NOAA Cooperative Center Remote Sensing Science and Technology Center at the City College of the City University of New York (CREST)	Steinman Hall, Rm T-107 140th Street & Convent Avenue New York, NY 10031	(212) 650-8009
Michael Abazinge, Ph.D.	NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center at Florida A& M University (ECSC)	1515 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd 305-D FSH Science Research Center Tallahassee, FL 32307	(850) 599-8553
Paulinus Chigbu, Ph.D.	NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (LMRCSC)	Carver Hall University of Maryland Eastern Shore Princess Anne, MD 21853	(404) 621-3034

9. <u>Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.</u>

No payment or gift will be offered to interview or survey respondents.

10. <u>Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.</u>

Survey respondents will be assured that no individually identifiable information will be included with any response; every effort will be made during reporting to minimize the extent to which the identities of respondents can be inferred from the data. Furthermore, the link between any response and any individual will be secured in a locked (hardcopy) or encrypted (computer) file and destroyed at the conclusion of the study pursuant to applicable NOAA regulations. In adherence with FISMA Enclave Data Transmission Policies, all data transmitted must be encrypted via software using FIPS 140-2 standards to protect sensitive information for compliance purposes.

All data collection staff at Insight (who will design the online survey and analyze results) and IMPAQ interviewers and data analysis collection staff (who will and collect the survey data and conduct the CSC site visits) are required to sign a data confidentiality pledge (see Attachment D) associated specifically with this study. In this agreement, the staff pledges to maintain the privacy of all information collected from the respondents and to not disclose it to anyone other than authorized representatives of the study, except as otherwise required by law.

11. <u>Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.</u>

The questions in the interview protocols and survey instruments are unlikely to be considered sensitive by respondents. Because one of the main goals of the EPP USP, GSP, and CSC programs is to serve underrepresented groups, the survey instrument will prompt respondents to provide information related to their race and ethnicity so that respondent outcomes can be disaggregated for analysis. Since enrollment in an MSI is a requirement for all EPP USP and GSP applicants, we anticipate that respondents will be comfortable disclosing this information on the survey. There are no questions regarding religious beliefs, sexual attitudes or behavior, or other matters commonly considered as private on the remainder of the survey instrument. As part of the consent process, respondents will be informed that they may choose not to answer any specific questions and, as noted in A.10 above, that responses will be treated as private.

12. <u>Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information</u>.

Web Survey Hour Burden

The survey is expected to achieve at least a 75-percent response rate and will require approximately 25 minutes for an average current or past scholarship recipient respondent to complete, and approximately 15 minutes for respondents who have not participated in the scholarship programs. The non-scholarship respondent surveys are shorter because they are not asked to respond to questions about their experience with the scholarship programs. **Therefore, an estimated minimum of 1,409 out of 1,878 potential respondents are expected to complete the survey for a total of 525 burden hours (1,034 respondents x 25 minutes and 375 respondents x 15 minutes)**. Because most potential survey respondents will have achieved at least a bachelor's degree in a NOAA-related life, physical, or social science field, it is assumed that these individuals would meet the minimum qualification requirements for Life, Physical, and Social Science Technician positions. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates (BLS, 2013), the annual mean wage for this occupation is $45,770. Assuming a 40-hour workweek over the course of 52 weeks annually, the hourly wage for this occupation is approximately $22.00. Therefore, the overall cost to survey respondents would be approximately $11,550 (525 burden hours x $22.00 per hour).

CSC Site Visit Burden Hours

In addition to the surveys, site visits to the CSCs will consist of 20 student interviews of approximately 90 minutes each, plus 44 hour-long interviews with community partners, institution partners, CSC administrators, and CSC center directors, for a total of 74 burden hours. The estimated annualized hourly costs to interviewees are calculated in Table A.12.1, below. Annual wages for each type of interviewee are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates for the most comparable occupation(s) (BLS, 2013). For example, we used the annual mean wage for Postsecondary Education Administrators as our best estimate for both CSC Administrator and Center Director interviewees. Because community partners tend to be field scientists working in community settings, and because there is no overall Life, Physical, and Social Scientist category, our best estimate was calculated as the average of several different

types of scientists in life, physical, and social science fields. Because institution partners tend to be faculty members working at partner universities, and because there is no overall Postsecondary Life, Physical, and Social Science Teacher category, our best estimate was calculated as the average of several different types of post-secondary teachers in life, physical, and social science fields.

Table A.12.1.
Estimated Cost to Interviewees

Type of Interviewee	# of Interviews	Annual Wage	Hourly Wage	Total Cost
CSC Student	20	$0	$0.00	$0.00
Community Partner	20	$80,563	$38.73	$774.64
Institution Partner	12	$84,897	$40.82	$489.79
CSC Administrator	8	$100,600	$48.37	$386.96
CSC Center Director	4	$100,600	$48.37	$193.48
Total Cost to All Interviewees				$1,844.87

Taken together, surveys and interviews account for approximately 599 burden hours and $13,395 annualized hourly costs to participants.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

No capital/startup or ongoing operational/maintenance costs are associated with this information collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The annualized cost to the Federal Government for this contract is $262,534. This includes costs associated with the study design, instrument development, technical development of survey forms, information collection, analysis, reporting, and presentation/publication of the results. This is a 3-year contract with a period of performance from October 8, 2014 to August 25, 2017.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

This is a new collection of information effort for a program evaluation that will add 599 burden hours to the OMB inventory.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The models for the local average treatment effects (receipt of the scholarship) will be estimated using local linear regressions or polynomial regressions in SAS or STATA software. Survey data will be analyzed with results presented in tabular form appropriate to the research questions outlined in the evaluation plan. Data from CSC site visits and in-depth interviews will be recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using NVivo 10 software. For in-depth interview analysis,

the researchers will import a verbatim transcript of each interview into NVivo and will code the data using a standard coding scheme for each interview.

The schedule for data collection, analysis, and reporting is shown in Table A.16.1 below.

Table A.16.1
Project Time Schedule

Activity	Expected Activity Period
Develop data collection instruments	June–September, 2015
Conduct surveys	September–December, 2015
Conduct CSC site visits	October–December, 2016
Data analysis	March–May, 2016
Submit final report to NOAA	August 2017

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The agency plans to display the expiration date of OMB approval on all forms/questionnaires associated with this information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

REFERENCES

Bureau of Labor and Statistics (2013). May 2013 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates United States [Occupational Employment Statistics]. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (2015). *Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 2015* (Special Report NSF 15-311). Retrieved from http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/

Robinson, L., Rousseau, J., Mapp, D., Morris, V., & Laster, M. (2007). An Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions: A Framework for Producing Minority Scientists in NOAA-Related Disciplines. *Journal of Geoscience Education, 55* (6).

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
EVALUATION SUPPORT SERVICES
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

INTRODUCTION

This section documents the statistical procedures used for NOAA's "Evaluation Support Services" study. The data collection process for this project includes two primary components: a Web-based survey and site visits. The *Web-based survey* will request quantitative data from a sample of 1,878 individuals. The *site visits* will collect qualitative data from a sample of 64 individuals through conducting 16 interviews at 4 academic institutions.

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

Web Survey

The quantitative component of this evaluation provides the data necessary for an impact analysis using a Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) based on information obtained via Web-based surveys. The surveys will be administered to HUSP and EPP program alumni and a comparison group of unsuccessful scholarship applicants. For this portion of the study, the universe of scholarship alumni will be surveyed, which consists of 1,378 scholarship recipients. We will take an *intent-to-treat* group approach for those applicants who were awarded a scholarship but declined to accept it. Therefore, all scholarship awardees (including individuals who declined the scholarship) will be included in the alumni survey sampling frame. To provide a comparison group, a sample of 500 unsuccessful applicants will be taken from a universe of 1,981. Unsuccessful applicants will be sampled based on those whose average reviewer scores approximate the cutoff points for those applicants who were accepted. The response rate for both groups is anticipated at approximately 75 percent.

Site Visits

The qualitative component of this evaluation, the CSC site visits, will be conducted in person in the final year (year 3) of this evaluation. In order to ascertain institution-level effects of the EPP offerings, CSC site visits will include a series of 64 semi-structured interviews with institutional officials, program personnel, and faculty. Site visits will include focus groups with CSC students and alumni. NOAA estimates a universe of 2,228 students involved in CSC activities, 4 directors, 41 faculty, 24 institutional partners, and 44 community partners across all 4 CSCs. Of these individuals, NOAA intends to sample 20 students, 20 community partner teachers and administrators, 12 institutional partner administrators, 8 CSC faculty members, and 4 center directors. These respondents will be a purposive sample that will ensure that we capture the diverse characteristics of each group. . We will interview at least two members of each

stakeholder group with the exception of CSC directors. The universe (n=4) of CSC directors will be interviewed.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

Web Survey

Procedures for the collection of data. IMPAQ designs integrated computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and Web surveys using the Voxco platform. The Voxco system provides the ability to deploy questionnaires across modes, which increases programming efficiency. The Web survey product, Acuity4, can handle sophisticated logic, multiple rotations, and advanced skip patterns. It has multiple language capability and automatic device detection, and it offers the capability to reach respondents via email or social media and to monitor open rates to enable adjustments to invitation and reminder strategies. In addition, Voxco's reporting functions provide real-time results to monitor survey progress. Multimode results are stored on one database to simplify survey analysis and reporting. The following procedures will be used in the collection of data from NOAA scholarship recipients and nonrecipients:

- Pre-notification emails alerting respondents of the importance of the study for NOAA Office of Education objectives and continuation of scholarship opportunities. The text for these emails is included in Attachment B.
- Web survey, fielded for 6 weeks, with reminders for nonresponse and unique identifiers for each respondent.
- Follow-up CATI data collection for nonrespondents.

Methodology for stratification and sample selection. A major component of this evaluation will involve collecting data from HUSP and EPP scholars and unsuccessful applicants via online surveys. The scholar survey will be a census of the population. The sample of 500 unsuccessful applicants will be sampled based on a fixed threshold (the reviewer score) or cutoff point that is closest to that of the selected scholars.

Estimation procedure. The models for the local average treatment effects (receipt of the scholarship) will be estimated using local linear regressions or polynomial regressions in SAS or STATA software. Univariate and bivariate descriptive statistics of percentages and means will be produced prior to multivariate regressions. Next, the variables will be adjusted so that the intercept approximates the cutoff point for receiving the scholarships. We will have a two-equation system with an outcome equation and a treatment equation. Higher order terms will be specified to accommodate a curvilinear function, if necessary.

Degree of accuracy. For the population of younger, highly educated individuals, Web surveys are the most accurate mode of information gathering. Accuracy relies on securing the correct contact information from respondents. This is to be addressed through existing information collected by NOAA from individuals and institutions at the time of application as well as in subsequent database updates. Any additional contact information will be secured through a LexisNexis search. Results for the RDD are also dependent on the statistical power of the

sample. Assuming a response rate of 50 percent, the sample will enable us to detect a minimum effect size of 0.10 with power at 0.8 (assuming the baseline covariates explain 0.7 of the variance).

Unusual problems required specialized sampling procedures. NOAA does not anticipate the use of specialized sampling procedures.

Any use of periodic data collection cycles. The survey will only be administered at one time point.

Site Visits

Procedures for the collection of data. During site visits to the CSCs, a broad range of stakeholders will be interviewed, including center directors, participating faculty, collaborating institutions, and outreach partners. Focus groups will be held with graduate and undergraduate students as well as postdoctorate fellows. Each site visit will consist of five separate protocols, and protocols for these site visits are organized according to the particular stakeholder being interviewed. Protocols for the site visits are included in this submission. General topics for the site visit study protocol will reflect the key process evaluation questions (e.g., CSC contributions to home institutions, products generated by the CSCs, participants' perceptions of the CSCs, activities in need of greater time or financial resources) as well as other issues that emerge through the analysis of data. Data from the interviews will be transcribed and coded across CSCs to develop listings of all activities and outcomes conducted. In preparation for this task, analysts will establish a codebook with a list of key concepts and areas of interest based on the questions asked during the interview and the document review. After compiling the list, each program lead will review a minimum of three interview transcripts to 1) determine whether the list is complete or whether additional variables are needed to capture every piece of data collected and 2) develop a list of response categories for some of the variables, where this makes sense. Information from each interview will be summarized across all interviews.

Methodology for stratification and sample selection. The sample selection process will be based on a purposive sample for each group of stakeholders at each CSC, with intentions to interview at least two members of each stakeholder group with the exception of CSC directors. The universe (n=4) of CSC directors will be interviewed.

Estimation procedure. There are no estimation procedures in the analysis of qualitative data.

Degree of accuracy. Findings from the site visits will be presented carefully to ensure that readers recognize the results are not generalizable beyond the findings of the specific sample of interviewees.

Unusual problems required specialized sampling procedures. NOAA does not anticipate the use of specialized sampling procedures.

Any use of periodic data collection cycles. The site visits will only occur at one point in time.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Web Survey

The survey administration methods that will be used in this evaluation have been shown to yield high response rates when the survey is of reasonable length and when potential respondents consider the topic relevant. Surveys will be administered in multiple modes. These Web-based surveys have been efficiently designed with clear skip patterns and will take 25 minutes for scholarship recipients to complete and 15 minutes for the comparison group to complete. The most updated list of respondents and contact information will be obtained from the NOAA Student Performance Tracking System. Both email addresses and telephone numbers will be validated and updated as necessary using LexisNexis. The invitation sent out in advance of the survey will include language that communicates NOAA endorsement. This evaluation will use a multipronged strategy to ensure strong response rates. The first half (roughly 6 weeks) of data collection will focus on maximizing Web-based survey responses. The survey's software has built-in tracking mechanisms to ensure that sample members can only complete the survey once; once a survey is complete, future attempts to access it will be denied. Those who prefer a phone interview, have no working email address, or have not responded to the online survey invitation will have the option of participating via the telephone (CATI) method, which will occur over a subsequent 6-week period following the online survey option. Each sampled individual will receive multiple call attempts in order to attempt a high response rate. All interviewing will be done from IMPAQ's Survey Center, which houses a 55-station CATI facility. Given the expected response rate, the relatively small number of nonrespondents should have little impact on the expected results. Due diligence will be exercised to examine any potential differences between respondents, late responders, and nonrespondents to understand any potential bias introduced by non-response. We will examine the data for nonresponse bias by comparing the survey responses of on-time responders to those of late responders, on the premise that late responders are a proxy for nonrespondents. To do so, we will follow the recommendations of Lindner, Murphy, and Briers (2001) to identify the late responders. Those who complete the survey following the last wave of reminder contact will be identified as late responders. If this approach does not yield at least 30 responders for each survey, we will also include those who responded after the last two reminder contacts. Should this approach also fail to yield at least 30 responders, we will identify them as the latest 30 responses recorded in the database for each survey. We will use data elements such as the following to examine potential bias: program(s) applied for, year(s) applied, acceptance status, and application score. Results of this analysis will be included in the final report.

Data will be quality checked as they are received, and biweekly reports by respondent group will be created. When data collection is complete, the raw survey data will be archived, including the open-ended survey responses. Tables and graphs will be produced according to the analysts' specifications following the research questions outlined in the evaluation plan. If the open-ended qualitative survey data are sufficiently rich and extensive, systematic thematic qualitative analysis will be conducted.

Site Visits
Site visits will be preceded by conversations with center directors identifying the directors' suggestions for key metrics in the evaluation of the EPP program. These conversations will also ensure the site visit protocols address common issues across all four CSCs. In cooperation with CSC directors as well as other CSC staff members, our team will use constructed participant lists to purposively select participants for the site visit focus groups and interviews at each institution. We will interview at least two members of each stakeholder group with the exception of CSC directors. The universe (n=4) of CSC directors will be interviewed. Additionally, participants will be contacted with a letter of support from the NOAA OEd Director as well as endorsement from the CSC director (See Attachment B for the letter from the NOAA OEd to respondents.).

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections.

Web Survey
The survey instrument was programmed into Web-based survey software (Voxco). Multiple, iterative rounds of pre-testing were conducted by approximately ten staff members from Insight, IMPAQ, and NOAA. To provide perspective similar to that of the intended respondents, several former NOAA scholarship recipients also tested the instrument. Pre-testers thoroughly tested both survey instruments for any programming or logic inaccuracies. Based on the results of this testing, minor programming edits were made, followed by subsequent rounds of testing. After any minor changes were incorporated into the survey programming, timed testing indicated that the scholarship survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete, and the comparison group survey takes approximately 10 minutes per respondent. NOAA will keep the slightly higher time estimates for completing the survey.

Site Visits
Each of the five site visit discussion guides (students, director, faculty members, community partners, and institutional partners) will be reviewed and revised in collaboration with NOAA staff members and then refined following the first site visit. These pretests will result in clarifications to the discussion guide and prompts as well as confirmed estimates of discussion length.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

NOAA has consulted with Insight and IMPAQ on matters of statistical design and analysis. The names and contact information for each team member appear in Table B.5.1 below.

Table B.5.1
Individuals Responsible for Statistical Aspects and Data Collection and Analysis

Name	Title (Project Role)	Organizational Affiliation and Address	Phone Number
Stéphane Baldi, Ph.D.	Vice President (Executive Project Director)	Insight Policy Research 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 1100 Arlington, VA 22209	(703) 504-9486
Catharine Warner-Griffin, Ph.D.	Senior Researcher (Project Manager)	Insight Policy Research 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 1100 Arlington, VA 22209	(703) 504-9493
Meg Trucano, Ph.D.	Research Analyst (Survey Design)	Insight Policy Research 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 1100 Arlington, VA 22209	(571)758-5006
Amber Noel, M.S.	Research Analyst (Data Analyst)	Insight Policy Research 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 1100 Arlington, VA 22209	(571)385-2460
Andrea Beesley, Ph.D.	Senior Research Associate (Task Lead)	IMPAQ International 1101 Vermont Avenue, NW 11th Floor Washington, DC 20005	(443) 832-2313

REFERENCES

Lindner, J. R., Murphy, T. H., & Briers, G. E. (2001). Handling nonresponse in social science research. *Journal of Agricultural Education, 42*(4), 43-53.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Evaluation Support Services

Request for Clearance
Supporting Statement and
Data Collection Instruments

Attachment A: Web Survey Instruments

Project Officer: Meka Laster

July 6, 2015

Attachment A.1
Scholarship Recipient Protocol

NOAA Scholarship Program Survey

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Dear Respondent:

This survey is voluntary. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Education is currently conducting an evaluation of two of its scholarship programs: the Educational Partnership Program (EPP) and the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP). One key component of this evaluation is to conduct an online survey of all scholarship recipients. As a scholarship recipient, you can provide valuable insight into the impact of these scholarship programs. This survey will ask about your educational and career choices as well as your views on how receiving the scholarship may have affected your academic and career pathways.

The survey will take approximately 25 minutes. Your responses are very important to ensuring that NOAA's Office of Education successfully meets its long-term goals, and we thank you for your participation.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this voluntary survey is estimated at 25 minutes, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, email SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or call ***[phone number].***

1. **Please select any of the following NOAA Office of Education scholarship programs to which you have *applied*:**
   a. Educational Partnership Program With Minority Serving Institutions Undergraduate Scholarship Program (EPP USP)
   b. Educational Partnership Program With Minority Serving Institutions Graduate Sciences Program (EPP GSP)
   c. Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP)

2a. When applying to the NOAA Office of Education scholarship(s) you indicated, how many other scholarships or fellowships did you apply for simultaneously?

d. None

e. 1

f. 2

g. 3

h. 4

i. 5

➔ *Based on the response to 2a, the following grid will appear for the appropriate number of scholarships/fellowships:*

2b. Please list the name of the scholarship(s)/fellowship(s), the year(s) in which you applied, and the year(s) it was awarded (if applicable):

	Name:	Application Year:	Awarded (Yes/No):	Year Awarded:
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

3. *NOAA is interested in understanding why you chose to apply for [SCHOLARSHIP NAME]. Please indicate *how important* the following factors were in your decision to pursue the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] opportunity:

	1–Not at all important	2	3	4	5–Very important
Interest in pursuing a career with NOAA					
Interest in a NOAA-related field of study (e.g., STEM fields)					
Opportunity to expand professional network					
Opportunity to collaborate with a NOAA mentor					
Opportunity to participate in a summer internship					
Financial aid					

4. When evaluating this [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] opportunity, please select which scholarship component was *more important* to you:

a. Internship opportunity

b. Financial aid

5. ***Please select the NOAA scholarship(s) you were *awarded: [Options displayed below predicated on respondent selection(s) given in Q2]*:**
   a. EPP Undergraduate Scholarship Program (EPP USP)
   b. EPP Graduate Sciences Program (EPP GSP)
   c. Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP)

6. ***When were you awarded the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME]?**
   a. [Drop-down list of years from 2000-2014]

7. **Have you completed the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] program?**
   a. Yes
   b. No

8. **Please indicate your current employment status:**
   a. I am employed full time. → *Proceed to 9*
   b. I am employed part time. →*Proceed to 9*
   c. I am not currently employed, and am not actively seeking employment. →*Skip to 13*
   d. I am not currently employed, but am actively seeking employment. →*Skip to 10*

9. **Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?**
   a. Government: U.S. Federal Government (including contractors) → *Skip to 9b*
   b. Government: State and Local (including contractors) → *Skip to 9b*
   c. Non-Federal NOAA Partnership Programs (e.g., Coastal Zone Management Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Cooperative Institutes, Sea Grant College Program) → *Skip to 9b*
   d. Educational Institution: College or University → *Proceed to 9a*
   e. Educational Institution: NOAA collaborative research program (e.g., Cooperative Institute, Cooperative Science Center, Sea Grant College Program) → *Skip to 9b*
   f. Educational Institution: Elementary/ Middle/High school → *Skip to 12*
   g. Private, for-profit/Industry → *Skip to 9b*
   h. Nonprofit/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) → *Skip to 9c*
   i. Self-employment → *Skip to 9c*

j. International organization → *Skip to 9c*

k. Other (please specify): → *Skip to 9c*

9a. Which of the following best describes your current academic position?

a. Instructor/Lecturer

b. Assistant Professor

c. Associate Professor

d. Professor

e. Research Faculty

f. Other (please specify):

9b. Do you currently work at a NOAA office or facility?

a. Yes, I am a Federal NOAA employee.

b. Yes, I am a NOAA contractor.

c. No, I am not employed by NOAA in any capacity.

If Yes" to 9b:

i. Please select your NOAA Line Office: [Drop-down list of Line Offices]

ii. In which year did you begin your NOAA employment? [Drop-down list of years]

9c. Please select the field(s) in which you are currently employed:

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

10. *Only if 8d is selected:* Which of the following career trajectories are you interested in pursuing in the future? (Select all that apply)

a. Government: U.S. Federal Government (including contractors) → *Proceed to 11*

b. Government: State and Local (including contractors) → *Proceed to 11*

c. Non-Federal NOAA Partnership Programs (e.g., Coastal Zone Management Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Cooperative Institutes, Sea Grant College Program) → *Proceed to 11*

d. Educational Institution: College or University → *Proceed to 11*

e. Educational Institution: NOAA collaborative research program (e.g., Cooperative Institute, Cooperative Science Center, Sea Grant College Program) → *Proceed to 11*

f. Educational Institution: Elementary/ Middle/High school → *Proceed to 11*

g. Private, for-profit/Industry → *Proceed to 11*

h. Nonprofit/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) → *Proceed to 11*

i. Self-employed → *Proceed to 11*

j. International organization → *Proceed to 11*

k. Other (please specify): → *Proceed to 11*

11. *Only if 8d is selected:* In which fields are you interested in pursuing work? (Select all that apply.)

a. [List of NOAA-related fields and subfields]

b. Other (please specify):

12. Would you ever consider pursuing a career with NOAA in the future?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Unsure

13. Please indicate your highest level of educational attainment:

a. I am currently an undergraduate student. → *Skip to 16*

b. Bachelor's degree →*Proceed to 13a*

c. Master's degree →*Proceed to 13a*

d. Doctoral degree →*Proceed to 13a, then skip to 16*

e. Professional degree → *Proceed to 13a, then skip to 16*

13a. In which field(s) did you earn your *[piped response from above]*? Select all that apply. (Note: Select multiple fields only if you majored in more than one field, but *do not include any minor fields of study*. Select only the field(s) that appear(s) on your diploma.)

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

14. Are you currently enrolled in a graduate or professional program?

a. Yes →*Proceed to 14a, 14b, then skip to 16*

b. No → *Skip to 15*

14a. Please select the graduate or professional program in which you are currently enrolled:

a. Master's degree (e.g., M.A., M.B.A., M.S.)

b. Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., D. Sci.)

c. Law degree (e.g., J.D.)

d. Medical degree (e.g., M.D.)

e. Other (please specify):

14b. Please select your graduate or professional field of study from the following list:

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

15. Are you interested in attending graduate or professional school?

a. Yes →*Proceed to 15a*

b. No

c. Unsure→*Proceed to 15a*

15a. If you were to attend graduate or professional school, please select your desired field of study from the following list:

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

16. Excluding any manuscripts that are currently under preparation, how many peer-reviewed publications have you authored or co-authored?

(Note: Please include any manuscripts that are *currently submitted/under review*.)

a. None →*Skip to 17*

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

16a. On how many of these publications did you collaborate with a NOAA employee, contractor, or mentor? *[Response options below will be limited to a number less than the previously selected number of publications.]*

a. None

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

17. How many manuscripts do you *currently have under preparation?*

a. None → *Skip to 18*

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

17a. On how many of these manuscripts did you collaborate with a NOAA employee, contractor, or mentor? *[Response options below will be limited to a number less than the previously selected number]*

a. None

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

18. How many presentations have you given at conferences or professional meetings in your field?

Note: Please *do not include* any presentations required of scholarship recipients as a condition of the scholarship/internship.)

a. None → *Skip to 19*

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

18a. How many of these presentations were collaborations with a NOAA employee, contractor, or mentor? *[Response options below will be limited to a number less than the previously selected number.]*

a. None

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

19. During your scholarship experience, who was the person that provided you with the most mentorship and/or guidance?

(Note: For any questions that refer to mentorship below, please refer to the person with whom you principally worked and engaged with the most during your scholarship experience, *regardless of whether that person was your NOAA-assigned mentor.)*

a. My NOAA-assigned mentor

b. A co-mentor at my research site

c. Other (please specify):

d. I do not feel that I received mentorship/guidance during my internship.

20. On average, how often did you meet with your mentor to discuss matters related to your NOAA research project(s)?

a. Monthly

b. Once a week

c. Twice a week

d. More than twice a week

e. Other (please specify):

f. I did not meet with my mentor to discuss my research project.

g. I do not recall how often I met with my mentor.

21. NOAA is interested in learning more about the training opportunities you were given as a result of receiving the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME]. Training opportunities could include the time you spent with your mentor, learning a new technology, or learning about the research process.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My mentor was actively involved in my NOAA research training.					
My mentor was available to me whenever I needed guidance (e.g., answered questions, provided assistance when needed, etc.)					
The **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]** afforded me the opportunity to develop knowledge of NOAA-related technology.					
My mentor was supportive of my NOAA research project(s).					

22. NOAA is also interested in understanding how your [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience may have provided you with work-related experience. Work-related experiences could include developing a professional network of scholars and researchers, developing skills that could be applied in a work-related setting, and gaining experience in the scientific field.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My professional network grew after receiving the **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]**.					
The **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]** gave me hands-on experience in a NOAA-related field.					
My interest in pursuing a NOAA-related career increased after receiving the **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]**.					
As a result of receiving **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]**, I am more prepared to enter the workforce.					

23. Please indicate *how instrumental* the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] was in achieving each of the following (where "1" indicates *Not at all instrumental* and "5" indicates *Very instrumental*):

	1–Not at all instrumental	2	3	4	5–Very instrumental	N/A
Getting another scholarship/fellowship						
Getting accepted to graduate school						
Shaping my future education plans						
Shaping my future career plans						
Graduating						
Paying tuition						
Paying for academic-related costs (e.g., books, materials, fees)						
Paying for living costs (e.g., rent)						
Building my research experience						
Expanding my professional network						

24. If "Yes" is selected for 7: After the completion of your [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience, did you apply for any additional scholarships or fellowships?

a. Yes

b. No → *Skip to 25*

If "yes" is selected for 24: After the completion of you [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience, did you receive any additional scholarships or fellowships?

Please list the scholarship/fellowship name and the year it was awarded:

Name: Award Year:

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

25. For the following items, please rate *how valuable* each component of the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience was to you:

	1–Not at all valuable	2	3	4	5–Very valuable	N/A
Opportunity to expand your professional network to include NOAA staff and mentors						
Opportunity to develop applied knowledge of NOAA-related research processes						
Opportunity to present my work to an audience of peers and mentors						
Overall NOAA scholarship experience						
Ability to pay tuition						
Opportunity to collaborate with a NOAA mentor						
Ability to pay for academic-related costs						
Ability to pay for living costs						
Opportunity to participating in a research internship						
Opportunity to conduct research on NOAA-related topics						
Opportunity to develop applied knowledge of						

NOAA-related technology						

26. What difference has receiving the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] made to your life? [Open-ended]

27. Please describe any challenges you encountered during your [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] program experience: [Open-ended]

28. Would you recommend the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] program to other students?

a. Yes

b. No

28a. Why? *[or]* Why not? Please describe: [Open-ended]

29. What is your age? [Drop-down list]

30. What is your gender?

a. Female

b. Male

c. Prefer not to specify

31. What is your race/ethnicity (select all that apply):

a. American Indian or Alaska Native

b. Asian

c. Black or African American

d. Hispanic or Latino

e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

f. White

g. Prefer not to specify

*Denotes required question. Respond must answer to proceed.

Attachment A.2
Comparison Group Protocol

NOAA Career Pathways Survey

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Dear Respondent,

This survey is voluntary. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Education is currently conducting an evaluation of its programs. One key component of this evaluation is to conduct an online survey of any individuals who have expressed an interest in NOAA mission-related fields. As an individual who has expressed interest in NOAA mission-related fields in the past, you can provide valuable insight on matters critical to this evaluation.

This brief survey will ask about your educational and career choices. This survey will take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Your responses are very important to this evaluation's success, and we thank you for your time.

Paperwork Burden Statement
According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this voluntary survey is estimated to average 15 minutes, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, email SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or call ***[phone number].***

1. **Have you ever received an academic scholarship or fellowship?**
   a. Yes
   b. No → *Skip to 3*

2. **Please list the name of the scholarship(s)/fellowship(s) you were awarded, and specify the year the scholarship(s)/fellowship(s) was/were awarded:**

Name:	Year:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Please indicate your current employment status:

a. I am employed full time. → *Proceed to 4*

b. I am employed part time. →*Proceed to 4*

c. I am not currently employed, and am not actively seeking employment. →*Skip to 7*

d. I am not currently employed, but am actively seeking employment. →*Skip to 5*

4. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

a. Government: U.S. Federal Government (including contractors) → *Skip to 4b*

b. Government: State and Local (including contractors) → *Skip to 4b*

c. Non-Federal NOAA Partnership Programs (e.g., Coastal Zone Management Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Cooperative Institutes, Sea Grant College Program) → *Skip to 4b*

d. Educational Institution: College or University → *Proceed to 4a*

e. Educational Institution: NOAA collaborative research program (e.g., Cooperative Institute, Cooperative Science Center, Sea Grant College Program) → *Skip to 4b*

f. Educational Institution: Elementary/ Middle/High school → *Skip to 7*

g. Private, for-profit/Industry → *Skip to 4b*

h. Nonprofit/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) → *Skip to 4c*

i. Self-employed → *Skip to 4c*

j. International organization → *Skip to 4c*

k. Other (please specify): → *Skip to 4c*

4a. Which of the following best describes your current academic position?

a. Instructor/Lecturer

b. Assistant Professor

c. Associate Professor

d. Professor

e. Research Faculty

f. Other (please specify):

4b. Do you currently work at a NOAA office or facility?

a. Yes, I am a Federal NOAA employee.

b. Yes, I am a NOAA contractor.

c. No, I am not employed by NOAA in any capacity.

If "yes" to 4b:

i. Please select your NOAA Line Office: [Drop-down list of Line Offices]

ii. In which year did you begin your NOAA employment? [Drop-down list of years]

4c. Please select the field(s) in which you are currently employed:

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

5. *Only if 3d is selected:* Which of the following career trajectories are you interested in pursuing in the future? (Select all that apply)

a. Government: U.S. Federal Government (including contractors) → *Proceed to 6*

b. Government: State and Local (including contractors) → *Proceed to 6*

c. Non-Federal NOAA Partnership Programs (e.g., Coastal Zone Management Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Cooperative Institutes, Sea Grant College Program) → *Proceed to 6*

d. Educational Institution: College or University → *Proceed to 6*

e. Educational Institution: NOAA collaborative research program (e.g., Cooperative Institute, Cooperative Science Center, Sea Grant College Program) → *Proceed to 6*

f. Educational Institution: Elementary/ Middle/High school → *Proceed to 6*

g. Private, for-profit/Industry → *Proceed to 6*

h. Nonprofit/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) → *Proceed to 6*

i. Self-employed → *Proceed to 6*

j. International organization → *Proceed to 6*

k. Other (please specify): → *Proceed to 6*

6. *Only if 3d is selected:* In which *field* are you interested in pursuing work? (Select all that apply.)

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

7. **Would you ever consider pursuing a career with NOAA in the future?**
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Unsure

8. **Please indicate your highest level of educational attainment:**
   a. I am currently an undergraduate student. → *Skip to 10*
   b. Bachelor's degree →*Proceed to 8a*
   c. Master's degree →*Proceed to 8a*
   d. Doctoral degree →*Proceed to 8a, then skip to 11*
   e. Professional degree → *Proceed to 8a, then skip to 11*

8a. In which field(s) did you earn your *[piped response from above]*? Select all that apply.

(Note: Select multiple fields only if you majored in more than one field, but *do not include any minor fields of study.* Select only the field(s) that appear(s) on your diploma.)

   a. [List of NOAA-related fields]
   b. Other (please describe):

9. **Are you currently enrolled in a graduate or professional program?**
   a. Yes →*Proceed to 9a*
   b. No →*Skip to 10*

9a. Please select the graduate or professional program in which you are currently enrolled:

   a. Master's degree (e.g., M.A., M.B.A., M.S.)
   b. Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., D. Sci.)
   c. Law degree (e.g., J.D.)
   d. Medical degree (e.g., M.D.)
   e. Other (please specify):

9b. Please select your graduate or professional field of study from the following list:

   a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

10. Are you interested in attending graduate or professional school?

a. Yes →*Proceed to 10a*

b. No →*Skip to 11*

c. Unsure→*Proceed to 10a*

10a. If you were to attend graduate or professional school, please select your desired field of study from the following list:

a. [List of NOAA-related fields]

b. Other (please specify):

11. Excluding any manuscripts that are currently under preparation, how many peer-reviewed publications have you authored or co-authored?

(Note: Please include any manuscripts that are *currently submitted/under review*.)

a. None

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

12. How many manuscripts do you have *currently under preparation*?

a. None

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

13. Approximately how many presentations have you given at conferences or professional meetings in your field?

a. None

b. 1

c. 2

d. 3

e. 4

f. 5

g. More than 5

14. We are interested in learning more about any training opportunities you may have received in your field.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have learned to use technologies that are relevant to my field.					
I have gained hands-on research experience in my field.					
I have worked with or received the support of a mentor who is active in my field.					

15. What is your age?

[Drop-down list]

16. What is your gender?

a. Female

b. Male

c. Prefer not to specify

17. What is your race/ethnicity (select all that apply):

a. American Indian or Alaska Native

b. Asian
c. Black or African American
d. Hispanic or Latino
e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
f. White
g. Prefer not to specify

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Evaluation Support Services

Request for Clearance
Supporting Statement and
Data Collection Instruments

Attachment B: Web Survey Contact Letters

Project Officer: Meka Laster

April 10, 2015

Attachment B.1
Pre-Invitation Email (scholarship recipient)

Subject Line: Invitation to Participate in a NOAA Survey

Dear **[Name],**

I am writing to invite you to take part in an important study sponsored by the Office of Education (OEd) here at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). I urge you, as a recipient of the (**name of scholarship program**), to participate in this effort by completing a brief online survey (no more than 25 minutes) that asks about your experiences as a scholarship recipient as well as your career pathways.

Insight Policy Research (Insight) and IMPAQ International (IMPAQ) have partnered with NOAA to evaluate the **Educational Partnership Program and the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program**. Your participation is critical to the success of this evaluation, so please take time from your busy schedule to assist us in better understanding the impact of these programs as well as their strengths and weaknesses. Within a week, you should receive an email from IMPAQ with a link to the survey.

In the meantime, we at NOAA OEd have our own alumni network. We would appreciate your help in updating your current employment and contact information in our database. Your information will be kept private, and the information you provide will not be shared with outside vendors. You can access the update form at the link below.

NOAA Office of Education Voluntary Alumni Update System (VAUS)
at https://oedwebapps.iso.noaa.gov/studentstracker/vaus

Should you have any questions about this evaluation, feel free to contact me at marlene.kaplan@NOAA.gov. I thank you in advance for taking part in this evaluation, which will help to support future NOAA scholarship recipients.

Sincerely,

Marlene Kaplan
Deputy Director of Education
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Attachment B.2
Pre-Invitation Email (comparison group)

Subject Line: Invitation to Participate in a NOAA Survey

Dear **[Name],**

I am writing to invite you to take part in an important study sponsored by the Office of Education (OEd) here at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). I urge you, as someone who has expressed an interest in a NOAA mission-related career, to participate in this effort by completing a brief online survey (10–15 minutes) that asks about your career pathways and any scholarships you may have received.

Insight Policy Research(Insight) and IMPAQ International (IMPAQ) have partnered with NOAA to explore NOAA-related career trajectories. Your participation is critical to the success of this evaluation, so please take time from your busy schedule to assist us in better understanding your experiences in NOAA mission-related fields as well as your career trajectory. Within a week, you should receive an email from IMPAQ with a link to the survey.

Should you have any questions about this evaluation, feel free to contact me at marlene.kaplan@NOAA.gov. I thank you in advance for taking part in this evaluation, which will help to support future NOAA scholarship recipients.

Sincerely,

Marlene Kaplan
Deputy Director of Education
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Attachment B.3
Invitation Email (scholarship recipient)

Subject Line: Link to the NOAA Scholarship Program Survey

Dear [**Name**],

You recently received an email urging you to participate in an evaluation of the Educational Partnership Program (EPP) and the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP). This evaluation is being carried out for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Education (OEd) by Insight Policy Research and IMPAQ International. As we explained, one key component of this evaluation is an online survey of all scholarship recipients that asks about your educational and career choices and your views on how receiving the scholarship may have affected your academic and career pathways. The survey will take less than 25 minutes.

(Your participation, while critical to our success, is entirely voluntary. Rest assured that your answers will be kept confidential and that the data will be reported only in summary form and will be maintained in a highly secure manner.)

Below, please find the instructions for accessing and completing the survey online.

To complete the survey, please go to www.StartupQuestSurvey.com

Please use [TOKEN] to enter the survey.

We ask that you respond by **[Deadline Date]**.

If you would prefer to take the survey over the phone or do not have access to a computer, please call [phone number] to arrange for a telephone survey.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort. Please do not hesitate to contact SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or to call **[phone number]** if you need help accessing or navigating the survey.

Sincerely,

John Wendt
Manager of Technical Survey Operations
IMPAQ International

Attachment B.4
Invitation Email (comparison group)

Subject Line: Link to the NOAA Program Survey

Dear **[Name],**

You recently received an email asking for your participation in an evaluation for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of Education (OEd). Insight Policy Research and IMPAQ International have partnered with NOAA to conduct this research. As was indicated, a key component of this study is a brief online survey tracking the career trajectory of individuals that have expressed an interest in NOAA mission-related fields. The survey will ask questions about your educational and career choices. Your participation is extremely important to our success, and the survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

(Your participation, while critical to our success, is entirely voluntary. Rest assured that your answers will be kept confidential, and that the data will only be reported in summary form and will be maintained in a highly secure manner.)

Below please find the instructions for accessing and completing the survey online.

To complete the survey, please go to www.StartupQuestSurvey.com

Please use [TOKEN] to enter the survey.

We ask that you respond by **[Deadline Date]**.

If you would prefer to take the survey over the phone or do not have access to a computer, please call [phone number] to arrange for a telephone survey.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort. Please do not hesitate to contact SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or to call **[phone number]** if you need help accessing or navigating the survey.

Sincerely,

John Wendt
Manager of Technical Survey Operations
IMPAQ International

Attachment B.5
Reminder Email (for recipient or comparison group nonrespondents)

Subject Line: REMINDER – NOAA Program Survey

Dear **[Name],**

This is a quick reminder to please go online and complete the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scholarship Program survey.

You are receiving this email because your survey responses have not been submitted!

Please remember to hit "submit" to complete your survey.

NOAA is very interested in your educational and career trajectories in NOAA mission-related fields. Your responses are very important to ensuring that NOAA's Office of Education successfully meets its long-term goals.

To complete the survey, please go to www.StartupQuestSurvey.com

Please use [TOKEN] to enter the survey.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort and for submitting your responses on or before **[Deadline Date]**. Please do not hesitate to contact SurveyTechTeam@Impaqint.com or to call **[phone number]** if you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey.

Sincerely,

John Wendt
Manager of Technical Survey Operations
IMPAQ International

Attachment B.6
Thank-You Email (scholarship recipients)

Dear **[Name],**

On behalf of NOAA, we would like to thank you very much for your time in completing the NOAA Scholarship Program survey. Your responses are very important to us.

Additionally, the Office of Education at NOAA has its own alumni network. We would appreciate your help in updating your current employment and contact information in our database. Your information will be kept private, and the information you provide will not be shared with outside vendors. You can access the update form at the link below.

NOAA Office of Education Voluntary Alumni Update System (VAUS)
at https://oedwebapps.iso.noaa.gov/studentstracker/vaus

Please do not hesitate to contact SurveyTechTeam@Impaqint.com or to call **[phone number]** if you have any questions or concerns regarding the NOAA Scholarship Program survey.

Sincerely,

John Wendt
Manager of Technical Survey Operations
IMPAQ International

Attachment B.7
Thank you email (Comparison Group)

Dear [**NAME**]:

On behalf of NOAA, we would like to thank you very much for your time in completing the NOAA Scholarship Program survey. Your responses are very important to us.

Please do not hesitate to contact SurveyTechTeam@Impaqint.com or to call **[phone number]** if you have any questions or concerns regarding the NOAA Scholarship Program survey.

Sincerely,

John Wendt
Manager of Technical Survey Operations
IMPAQ International

Notification Emails

Email to Center Director Regarding Site Visit

To: Cooperative Science Center Director

CC: Key CSC Staff [such as those helping to schedule site visit]

Subject: Evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program – site visit

Dear XXX,

As part of the evaluation of the NOAA's Education Partnership Program (EPP), Insight Policy Research, Inc. and IMPAQ International are conducting site visits to interview or conduct focus groups with key Cooperative Science Center (CSC) leaders, administrators, community partners, and students. The site visits are part of a three-year independent outcome evaluation of NOAA's EPP that provides funding to [name of CSC]. We are not evaluating individual centers, but instead are looking at outcomes across the entire EPP and its program components. We are conducting the site visits to gather feedback from multiple sources about their experience with the CSCs, including CSC contributions to [name of institution], products generated by the CSCs, participants' perceptions of the CSCs, and activities in need of greater time or financial resources. We appreciate your assistance with scheduling and planning these interviews and focus groups during our site visit.

Each individual interview will take approximately 60 minutes, and will be audio recorded with the respondents' permission. The students will be interviewed together in a focus group, which will take approximately 90 minutes. The information provided will be used for program evaluation purposes only, and will only be reported in aggregate. No individual names will be reported.

We would like to schedule a call with you to discuss selecting a sample of participants for the interviews and focus group. During the call, we would also like to discuss more specific logistics about the two-day site visit. Please let us know when you are available in the next two weeks for a phone conversation.

Thank you for your participation!

[Site Visitor's Name]

Email to Institutional Partners Regarding Cooperative Science Center Evaluation Interviews

To: Institutional Partner

Subject: Evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program – request for interview

Dear XXX,

As part of the evaluation of the NOAA's Education Partnership Program (EPP), Insight Policy Research, Inc. and IMPAQ International are conducting interviews with key Cooperative Science Center (CSC) leadership, administrators, community partners, and students. These interviews are part of a three-year independent outcome evaluation of NOAA's EPP that provides funding to [name of CSC]. We are not evaluating individual centers, but instead are looking at outcomes across the entire EPP and its program components. We are conducting these interviews in order to gather feedback from multiple sources about their experience with the CSCs, including CSC contributions to [name of institution], products generated by the CSCs, participants' perceptions of the CSCs, and activities in need of greater time or financial resources. As someone who works closely with [name of CSC], your input is critical to our study. Therefore, we would like to conduct a telephone interview with you.

Each telephone interview will take approximately 60 minutes, and will be audio recorded with your permission. The information provided will be used for program evaluation purposes only, and will only be reported in aggregate. No individual names will be reported.

Could you please provide me with some dates and times when you are available for a phone interview within the next two to three weeks?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your participation!

[Interviewer's Name]

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Evaluation Support Services

Request for Clearance
Supporting Statement and
Data Collection Instruments

Attachment C: Site Visit Instruments & Contact Letters

Project Officer: Meka Laster

April 10, 2015

Attachment C.1
EPP-CSC NOAA-Funded Recipients (focus group)

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

[Focus group facilitators will explain that they are the external evaluators conducting a study of EPP, and will lead group introductions. Facilitators will also pass out consent forms.]

Thank you for participating in our focus group about [**name of CSC**]. My name is XX and I am from IMPAQ International, a research organization based in Maryland. You were selected for the focus group because you are studying the _____ sciences at [**name of CSC**], and are funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The purpose of our meeting is to get your feedback on your [**name of CSC**] experience, and if it has affected your academic and career choices. This focus group is part of a 3-year independent evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program (EPP). We will be here for about 90 minutes today.

Everything you say in this focus group will be kept confidential – we will not report your name in our study. We want you to feel free to speak openly, so we also ask that you respect others in the group by keeping everything you hear in our conversation today confidential. We also ask that you respect the opinions of everyone in the room. As you saw in the consent form, we are going to record the focus group to assist us with our notetaking. We will use the recording only for our analyses and will not give access to the recording to anyone outside of the research team. Does anyone have any questions before we get started?

1. Let's start by talking about your background and your experiences with [name of CSC]. What do you study and what year are you in the program? What attracted you to [**name of CSC]**?
2. Can you describe the *academic opportunities* that have been made available to you because of NOAA funding? [Probe for coursework and choosing major.]
3. What about *research opportunities*? [Probe for conference travel, research funding, collaboration with faculty, work with partner institutes, community outreach, mentoring, etc.]
4. What are your career goals? In what ways (if at all) have your academic and career choices been affected by your experience at [**name of CSC**]?
5. What do you like best about [**name of CSC**]?
6. What challenges have you experienced at [**name of CSC**]?
7. Have you received any other funding during your program? [Probe for other programs that provide similar experiences.]
8. Are there any areas or activities in [**name of CSC**] that are in need of greater time or financial resources?
9. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding your experience with [**name of CSC**]?

Attachment C.2
CSC Directors (interview)

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Thank you for participating in our interview about [**name of CSC**]. As you know, this interview is part of a 3-year independent outcome evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program (EPP) that provides funding to [**name of CSC**]. We are not evaluating individual centers but instead are looking at outcomes across the entire EPP and its program components. Everything you say will be kept confidential – we will not report your name in our study. Your responses will be de-identified and will not be shared directly with individuals outside of the research team. Findings from the interviews will be reported in summary form, but your role and the CSC you work with may be identified in the report. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the purpose of the evaluation or our confidentiality policy?

We anticipate that this interview will take approximately 1 hour.

We are going to record the interview to assist us with our notetaking. We will use the recording only for our analyses and will not give access to the recording to anyone outside of the research team. Do I have your permission to record? (Yes/No)

1. Let's start by talking about your background and your experiences with [**name of CSC**]. How long have you been at [**name of school**]? You've been the director of [**name of CSC**] since [**year**], is that correct?
2. Can you describe the *research opportunities* that have been made available to your faculty and students because of NOAA funding? [Probe for conference travel, research funding, collaboration with students and other faculty, work with partner institutes, etc.] Can you give me some specific examples? [Probe for new/groundbreaking research, increase in publications and/or dissemination of research.]
3. Can you describe the *academic opportunities* that have been made available to your school and students because of NOAA funding? [Probe for position funding, courses/majors made available, etc.]
4. Can you describe the *community outreach opportunities* that have started because of NOAA funding? How has NOAA funding allowed students and faculty to participate in community outreach?
5. Can you describe the relationship with [**partner institutions**]? What are the results of your collaboration? What are the strengths of the partner institutions? What are the benefits and challenges of working with them?
6. Can you describe the relationship between [**name of CSC**] and [**name of school**]? What is the value-added of the CSC to [**your home institution**]? And vice versa? [Probe for financial value added, such as funding for scholarships; faculty outcomes, such as funding for faculty positions, opportunities for research, and student outcomes, such as more NOAA-related courses/majors offered, leading to an increase in students studying in NOAA-related fields.]

7. What are the characteristics of the relationship between [**name of CSC**] and [**community outreach partners**]? What are some of the common activities? What are the benefits and challenges of working with them?
8. Can you describe the relationship between [**name of CSC**] and NOAA? What are the benefits and challenges of working with NOAA?
9. Are there any areas or activities in [**name of CSC**] that are in need of greater time or financial resources?
10. In what ways do you think [**name of CSC**] is successful at training and building a diverse workforce in NOAA-related fields and working with students from underrepresented communities?
11. In what ways do you think [**name of CSC**] provides resources on best practices in science education and training (particularly in NOAA-related fields)?
12. What do you like best about [**name of CSC**]
13. What challenges have you experienced as the director of [**name of CSC**]?
14. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding your experience with [**name of CSC**]?

Attachment C.3
Faculty/Administrators (interview)

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Thank you for participating in our interview about [**name of CSC**]. As you may know, this interview is part of a 3-year independent outcome evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program (EPP) that provides funding to [**name of CSC**]. Everything you say will be kept confidential – we will not report your name in our study. Your responses will be de-identified and will not be shared directly with individuals outside of the research team. Findings from the interviews will be reported in summary form, but your role and the CSC you work with may be identified in the report. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the purpose of the evaluation or our confidentiality policy?

We anticipate that this interview will take approximately 1 hour.

We are going to record the interview to assist us with our notetaking. We will use the recording only for our analyses and will not give access to the recording to anyone outside of the research team. Do I have your permission to record? (Yes/No)

1. Let's start by talking about your background and your experiences with [**name of CSC**]. How long have you been at [**name of school**]? What is your role with [**name of CSC]**?
2. Can you describe the opportunities that have been made available to you because of NOAA funding? [Probe for position funding, conference travel, research funding, collaboration with students and other faculty, work with partner institutes, community outreach, etc.]
3. How does [**name of school**]'s partnership with NOAA affect student outcomes? [Probe for outcomes that lead to more students majoring in NOAA fields, more students taking NOAA-related courses, and more students entering NOAA fields postgraduation.]
4. What do you like best about [**name of CSC**]?
5. What challenges have you experienced at [**name of CSC**]?
6. Can you describe the relationship between [**name of CSC**] and [**name of school**]? What is the value-added of the CSC to [**your home institution**]?
7. Are there any areas or activities in [**name of CSC]** that are in need of greater time or financial resources?
8. In what ways do you think [**name of CSC**] is successful at training and building a diverse NOAA-related workforce and working with students from underrepresented communities?
9. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding your experience with [**name of CSC**]?

Attachment C.4
Partner Institutions (phone interview)

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Thank you for participating in our interview about [**name of CSC**]. As you may know, this interview is part of a three-year independent outcome evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program (EPP) that provides funding to [**name of CSC**]. Everything you say will be kept confidential – we will not report your name in our study. Your responses will be de-identified and will not be shared directly with individuals outside of the research team. Findings from the interviews will be reported in summary form, but your role and the CSC you work with may be identified in the report. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the purpose of the evaluation or our confidentiality policy?

We anticipate that this interview will take approximately 1 hour.

We are going to record the interview to assist us with our note taking. We will use the recording only for our analyses and will not give access to the recording to anyone outside of the research team. Do I have your permission to record? (Yes/No)

1. Let's start by talking about your background and your experiences with [**name of CSC**]. How long has [**name of school**] been involved as a partner of [**name of CSC**]? What is your role in the partnership?
2. Can you describe the opportunities that have been made available to your faculty and students because of NOAA funding? [Probe separately for position funding, conference travel, research funding, collaboration with students and other faculty, work with partner institutes, community outreach, etc.]
3. Can you describe the relationship with [**name of the lead institution**]? What are some of the results of your collaboration? What are the strengths of [the lead institution]? What are the benefits of this partnership? What are some of the challenges?
4. Can you describe the relationship with [**other partner institutions**]? What are some of the results of your collaboration? What are the strengths of [the partner institutions]? What are the benefits of these partnerships? What are some of the challenges?
5. What is the value-added of the CSC to [**your home institution**]? And vice versa?
6. Are there any areas or activities in [**name of CSC]** that are in need of greater time or financial resources?
7. In what ways do you think [**name of CSC**] is successful at training and building a diverse workforce in NOAA-related fields and working with students from underrepresented communities? In what ways do you think [**name of CSC**] provides resources on best practices in science education and training (particularly in NOAA-related fields)?
8. What do you like best about [**name of CSC**]?
9. What challenges have you experienced with [**name of CSC**]?

10. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding your experience with [**name of CSC**]?

Attachment C.5
CSC Community Partners (phone interview)

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Thank you for participating in our interview about [**name of CSC**]. As you may know, this interview is part of a 3-year independent outcome evaluation of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program (EPP) that provides funding to [**name of CSC**]. Everything you say will be kept confidential – we will not report your name in our study. Your responses will be de-identified and will not be shared directly with individuals outside of the research team. Findings from the interviews will be reported in summary form, but your role and the CSC you work with may be identified in the report. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the purpose of the evaluation or our confidentiality policy?

We anticipate that this interview will take approximately 1 hour.

We are going to record the interview to assist us with our notetaking. We will use the recording only for our analyses and will not give access to the recording to anyone outside of the research team. Do I have your permission to record? (Yes/No)

1. Let's start by talking about your background and your experiences with [**name of CSC**]. What is your role in the partnership? When and how did the partnership begin?
2. Can you describe the activities and opportunities that your institution/organization has conducted in partnership with [**name of CSC**]?
3. Can you describe the relationship with [**name of CSC**]?
4. Are there any areas or activities that you would like to pursue with [**name of CSC**] in the future?
5. In what ways do you think [**name of CSC**] is successful at training and building a diverse workforce in NOAA-related fields and working with students from underrepresented communities?
6. What do you like best about [**name of CSC**]?
7. What challenges have you experienced with [**name of CSC**]?
8. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding your experience with [**name of CSC**]?

Attachment C.6
Participant Consent Form for Focus Groups

You are invited to take part in a study of the Educational Partnership Program (EPP) for Minority-Serving Institutions, which funds the [**name of CSC]** with which you are associated. This 3-year independent evaluation is being carried out by Insight Policy Research and IMPAQ International under contract to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education (NOAA OEd). The evaluation seeks to determine whether the EPP is meeting its goals for its participants as well as to gather information on program implementation to inform future NOAA programming. As part of this study, you are being asked to participate in a focus group that will last about 90 minutes, with a short break in the middle. The focus group will ask for your feedback on your [**name of CSC**] experience and your views as to how it may be affecting your academic and career choices. Your consent is needed if you are to participate, and we strongly urge you to take part in what we hope will be an interesting discussion of the CSC experience with your peers. Below are several pertinent points about your participation.

Voluntary Participation

It is your choice whether to participate in this research. If you do choose to participate, you may change your mind and leave the focus group at any time. Refusal to participate or stopping your participation will involve no penalty and no loss of benefits.

Risks

Strenuous efforts are being made to ensure that only Insight Policy Research and IMPAQ International project staff will have access to recordings of the focus group (interview) sessions and any associated transcripts or notes. Apart from the very small possibility that someone other than the researchers would hear a recording or see a transcript, there are few other risks associated with participation.

Confidentiality

The data from the focus group will not be intentionally shared with anyone, and will be kept on a password-protected computer accessible only to designated staff. We will ask participants in the focus group not to reveal what is discussed in the group to anyone outside the group, but we cannot absolutely guarantee focus group confidentiality. Your name will not appear in any report or other publication, responses will be summarized in a way that will never identify anyone personally, and the data will be used for research and educational purposes only.

Whom to Contact

For more information about the evaluation and your participation in it, or if you would like to withdraw from participation in the focus group, please get in touch with [Maria DiFuccia], whose contact information can be found below:

Maria DiFuccia, IMPAQ International
Evaluation Site Visit Coordinator
202-774-1948
MDiFuccia@impaqint.com

Consent

I have read the information in this consent form. All my questions about the research have been answered to my satisfaction.

Your signature below indicates your permission to take part in this research.

_____

Printed name of participant

_____ _____

Signature of participant Date

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Evaluation Support Services

Request for Clearance
Supporting Statement and
Data Collection Instruments

Attachment D: Privacy Pledge

Project Officer: Meka Laster

April 10, 2015

OMB Control Number: 0584-XXXX
Expiration Date: XX/XX/XXXX

insight POLICY RESEARCH

ATTACHMENT D: PRIVACY PLEDGE

I understand that the names, and any other identifying facts or information, of individuals, businesses, organizations, and families participating in this project conducted by Insight Policy Research, Inc. (Insight) or its subsidiaries are private information. I agree that I will not reveal such private information, regardless of how or where I acquired it, to any person unless such person has been authorized by the cognizant Insight Project Director or the Project Manager to have access to the information.

I further understand that the unauthorized access to, use, or disclosure of any private information is a breach of the terms of my employment, or my consultant agreement with Insight and may subject me to court action by any interested party or to other sanctions by Insight. I acknowledge that this agreement shall continue to bind me even after the project(s) is (are) completed and/or even though my employment or my consultant agreement with Insight has terminated.

Other than in the course of my authorized employment or my consultant agreement, I further agree that I will not use, nor facilitate the use by any third party, in any way any information deemed private by the terms of any contract or other written agreement between Insight and any other organization, except by written authorization by both parties. It is my understanding that Insight and the contracting organization(s) have the exclusive right to all information acquired or developed under such a contract or other written agreement. I acknowledge that I acquire no right, title, or interest in and to any data or information to which I have access by reason of my employment or my consultant agreement and that I may not remove such data from my assigned work location without prior authorization.

I agree to promptly notify the applicable Insight Project Director or Project Manager of any unauthorized disclosure, use, or alteration of private information that I observe.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent divulgence of information to any court or governmental agency, provided such divulgence is required by law. However, if I am subpoenaed, or if I have reason to believe that I may be called upon to make such divulgence, I agree to notify the President of Insight promptly in writing and, upon his request, to cooperate in all lawful efforts to resist such divulgence.

Name:_____ Signature:_____

Date:_____

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education is currently conducting an evaluation of two of its scholarship programs: the Educational Partnership Program (EPP) and the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Program (HUSP). One key component of this evaluation is to conduct an online survey of all scholarship recipients. As a scholarship recipient, you can provide valuable insight into the impact of these scholarship programs. This survey will ask about your educational and career choices, as well as your views on how receiving the scholarship may have affected your academic and career pathways.

The survey will take less than 25 minutes. Your responses are very important to ensuring that NOAA's Office of Education successfully meets its long-term goals, and we thank you for your participation.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this voluntary survey is estimated at 25 minutes per response for questions 1-31 on the survey, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, email SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or call 1-866-775-5450.

>>>

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Application Details

Please select any of the following NOAA Office of Education scholarship programs to which you have *applied:*

- ☐ Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions Undergraduate Scholarship Program (EPP-USP)
- ☐ Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions Graduate Sciences Program (EPP-GSP)
- ☐ Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP)

<<< >>>

NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Dear Respondent,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education is currently conducting an evaluation of its programs. One key component of this evaluation is to conduct an online survey of any individuals who have expressed an interest in NOAA mission-related fields. As an individual who has expressed interest in NOAA mission-related fields in the past, you can provide valuable insight on matters critical to this evaluation.

This brief survey will ask about your educational and career choices, and should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Your responses are very important to this evaluation's success, and we thank you for your time.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this voluntary survey is estimated to average 12 minutes for questions 1-18 on the survey, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, email SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or call 1-866-775-5450.

>>>

NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Application Details

Have you ever received an academic scholarship?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

<<< >>>

NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Dear Respondent,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education is currently conducting an evaluation of its programs. One key component of this evaluation is to conduct an online survey of any individuals who have expressed an interest in NOAA mission-related fields. As an individual who has expressed interest in NOAA mission-related fields in the past, you can provide valuable insight on matters critical to this evaluation.

This brief survey will ask about your educational and career choices, and should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Your responses are very important to this evaluation's success, and we thank you for your time.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this voluntary survey is estimated to average 12 minutes for questions 1-18 on the survey, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, email SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or call 1-866-775-5450.

Application Details

Have you ever received an academic scholarship?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please list the scholarship(s) you were awarded, and specify the year in which you received them:

	Name:	Year:
		Select an answer...
		Select an answer...
		Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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Education and Career Pathways Information

Please indicate your current employment status:

- I am employed full-time.
- I am employed part-time.
- I am not currently employed, and am not actively seeking employment.
- I am not currently employed, but am actively seeking employment.

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- **Government:** US Federal government
- **Government:** State or local
- **Government:** NOAA-State partnership program (e.g., Coastal Zone Management Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve)
- **Educational Institution:** College or University
- **Educational Institution:** NOAA collaborative research program (e.g., Cooperative Institute, Cooperative Science Center, Sea Grant College Program)
- **Educational Institution:** Elementary/ Middle/High school
- Private, for-profit/Industry
- Non-profit/ Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- Self-employed
- International organization
- Other (please specify):

NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Which of the following best describes your current academic position?

- Instructor/lecturer
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Professor
- Research faculty
- Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Do you currently work at a NOAA office or facility?

- Yes, I am a federal NOAA employee.
- Yes, I am a NOAA contractor.
- No, I am not employed by NOAA in any capacity.

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please select your NOAA Line Office:

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

In which year did you begin your NOAA employment?

Select an answer... ▼

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please select the field(s) in which you are currently employed:

Select an answer... ▼

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please select the [Q4c_1] field(s) in which you are currently employed:

Select an answer...

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Which of the following career trajectories are you interested in pursuing in the future? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ **Government**: US Federal government
- ☐ **Government**: State or local
- ☐ **Educational Institution**: College or University
- ☐ **Educational Institution**: Elementary/ Middle/High school
- ☐ Private, for-profit/Industry
- ☐ Non-profit/ Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- ☐ Self-employment
- ☐ International organization
- ☐ Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

In which *field* are you interested in pursuing a position?

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Would you ever consider pursuing a career with NOAA in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please indicate your highest level of educational attainment:

- I am currently an undergraduate student.
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

In which field(s) did you earn your ? Select all that apply.

- [ ] Business Management / Administration
- [ ] Communication
- [ ] Computer & Information Sciences
- [ ] Education - Other Education
- [ ] Education - Research & Administration
- [ ] Education - Teacher Education
- [ ] Education - Teaching Fields
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Humanities
- [ ] Law
- [ ] Life Sciences - Agricultural Sciences / Natural Resources
- [ ] Life Sciences - Biological / Biomedical Sciences
- [ ] Life Sciences - Health Sciences
- [ ] Mathematics
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Astronomy
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Atmospheric Science & Meteorology
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Chemistry
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Geological & Earth Sciences
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Ocean / Marine Sciences
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Physics
- [ ] Psychology
- [ ] Social Sciences
- [ ] Other

NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Are you currently enrolled in a graduate or professional program?

- Yes
- No

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please select the graduate or professional program in which you are currently enrolled:

- Master's degree (e.g., MA, MBA, MS)
- Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., D. Sci)
- Law degree (e.g., J.D.)
- Medical degree (e.g., M.D.)
- Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Please select your graduate or professional field of study from the following list:

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Are you interested in attending graduate or professional school?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

If you were to attend graduate or professional school, please select your desired field of study from the following list:

Select an answer...

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Excluding any manuscripts that are currently under preparation, how many peer-reviewed publications have you authored or co-authored?

(Note: Please include any manuscripts that are *currently submitted/under review.*)

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

How many manuscripts do you have *currently under preparation*?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Approximately how many presentations have you given at conferences or professional meetings in your field?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

We are interested in learning more about any training opportunities you may have received in your field.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have worked with or received the support of a mentor who is active in my field.	○	○	○	○	○
I have learned to use technologies that are relevant to my field.	○	○	○	○	○
I have gained hands-on research experience in my field.	○	○	○	○	○

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

What is your age?

Select an answer... ▼

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What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to specify

<<< >>>

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

Do you consider yourself to be...

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer not to specify

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NOAA CAREER PATHWAYS SURVEY - DEMO

What is your race? (Select one or more)

- [ ] American Indian or Alaska Native
- [ ] Asian
- [ ] Black or African American
- [ ] Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- [ ] White
- [ ] Prefer not to specify

<<< Submit

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education is currently conducting an evaluation of two of its scholarship programs: the Educational Partnership Program (EPP) and the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Program (HUSP). One key component of this evaluation is to conduct an online survey of all scholarship recipients. As a scholarship recipient, you can provide valuable insight into the impact of these scholarship programs. This survey will ask about your educational and career choices, as well as your views on how receiving the scholarship may have affected your academic and career pathways.

The survey will take less than 25 minutes. Your responses are very important to ensuring that NOAA's Office of Education successfully meets its long-term goals, and we thank you for your participation.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this voluntary survey is estimated at 25 minutes per response for questions 1-31 on the survey, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, email SurveyTechTeam@impaqint.com or call 1-866-775-5450.

>>>

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Application Details

Please select any of the following NOAA Office of Education scholarship programs to which you have *applied:*

- ☐ Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions Undergraduate Scholarship Program (EPP-USP)
- ☐ Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions Graduate Sciences Program (EPP-GSP)
- ☐ Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP)

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In addition to this scholarship, did you apply for any other scholarships?

Please list the name of the scholarship, the year in which you applied, and the year it was awarded (if applicable):

	Name:	Application Year:	Award Year:

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

NOAA is interested in understanding why you chose to apply for [SCHOLARSHIP NAME]. Please indicate *how important* the following factors were in your decision to pursue the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] opportunity:

	1-Not at all important	2	3	4	5-Very important
Financial aid	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunity to participate in a summer internship	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interest in pursuing a career with NOAA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interest in a NOAA-related field of study (e.g., STEM fields, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunity to expand professional network	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunity to collaborate with a NOAA mentor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

When evaluating this [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] opportunity, please select which scholarship component was *more important* to you:

- ○ Financial aid/tuition
- ○ Internship opportunity

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please select the NOAA scholarship(s) you were *awarded*:

- ☐ EPP Undergraduate Scholarship Program (EPP USP)
- ☐ EPP Graduate Sciences Program (EPP GSP)
- ☐ Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP)

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

When were you awarded the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME]?

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Have you completed the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] program?

- Yes
- No

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please indicate your current employment status:

- I am employed full-time
- I am employed part-time
- I am not currently employed, and am not actively seeking employment.
- I am not currently employed, but am actively seeking employment.

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- ○ Government - US Federal government
- ○ Government -State or local
- ○ Government -NOAA-State partnership program (e.g., Coastal Zone Management Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve)
- ○ Educational Institution - College or University
- ○ Educational Institution - NOAA collaborative research program (e.g., Cooperative Institute, Cooperative Science Center, Sea Grant College Program)
- ○ Educational Institution - Elementary/ Middle/High school
- ○ Private, for-profit/Industry
- ○ Non-profit/ Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- ○ Self-employed
- ○ International organization
- ○ Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Which of the following best describes your current academic position?

- Instructor/lecturer
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Professor
- Research faculty
- Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Do you currently work at a NOAA office or facility?

- Yes, I am a federal NOAA employee.
- Yes, I am a NOAA contractor.
- No, I am not employed by NOAA in any capacity.

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please select your NOAA Line Office:

Select an answer...

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In which year did you begin your NOAA employment?

- Prior to 2007
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015

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Please select the field(s) in which you are currently employed:

- [ ] Business Management / Administration
- [ ] Communication
- [ ] Computer & Information Sciences
- [ ] Education - Other Education
- [ ] Education - Research & Administration
- [ ] Education - Teacher Education
- [ ] Education - Teaching Fields
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Humanities
- [ ] Law
- [ ] Life Sciences - Agricultural Sciences / Natural Resources
- [ ] Life Sciences - Biological / Biomedical Sciences
- [ ] Life Sciences - Health Sciences
- [ ] Mathematics
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Astronomy
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Atmospheric Science & Meteorology
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Chemistry
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Geological & Earth Sciences
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Ocean / Marine Sciences
- [ ] Physical Sciences - Physics
- [ ] Psychology
- [ ] Social Sciences
- [ ] Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Which of the following career trajectories are you interested in pursuing in the future? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Government: US Federal government
- ☐ Government: State or local
- ☐ Educational Institution: College or University
- ☐ Educational Institution: Elementary/Middle/High school
- ☐ Private, for-profit/Industry
- ☐ Non-profit/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ International organization
- ☐ Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

In which *field* are you interested in pursuing a position?

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Would you ever consider pursuing a career with NOAA in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please indicate your highest level of educational attainment:

- I am currently an undergraduate student.
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

In which field(s) did you earn your Master's degree? Select all that apply. (Note: Select multiple fields only if you majored in more than one field, but *do not include* any minor fields of study. Select only the field(s) that appear(s) on your diploma.)

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Are you currently enrolled in a graduate or professional program?

- Yes
- No

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please select the graduate or professional program in which you are currently enrolled:

- Master's degree (e.g., MA, MBA, MS)
- Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., D. Sci)
- Law degree (e.g., J.D.)
- Medical degree (e.g., M.D.)
- Other (please specify):

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please select your graduate or professional field of study from the following list:

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Are you interested in attending graduate or professional school?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

If you were to attend graduate or professional school, please select your desired field of study from the following list:

Select an answer...

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Excluding any manuscripts that are currently under preparation, how many peer-reviewed publications have you authored or co-authored?

(Note: Please include any manuscripts that are *currently submitted/under review*.)

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

On how many of these publications did you collaborate with a NOAA employee, contractor, or mentor?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

How many manuscripts do you have *currently under preparation*?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

On how many of these manuscripts did you collaborate with a NOAA employee, contractor, or mentor?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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How many presentations have you given at conferences or professional meetings in your field?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

How many of these presentations were collaborations with a NOAA employee, contractor, or mentor?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

<<< >>>

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Scholarship Experiences

During your scholarship experience, who was the person that provided you with the most mentorship and/or guidance?

- My NOAA-assigned mentor
- A co-mentor at my research site
- Other (please specify):
- I do not feel that I received mentorship/guidance during my internship.

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

(Note: For any questions that refer to mentorship below, please refer to the person with whom you principally worked and engaged with the most during your scholarship experience, *regardless of whether that person was your NOAA-assigned mentor.)*

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

On average, how often did you meet with your mentor to discuss matters related to your NOAA research project(s)?

- ○ Monthly
- ○ Once a week
- ○ Twice a week
- ○ More than twice a week
- ○ Other (please specify):
- ○ I did not meet with my mentor to discuss my research project.
- ○ I do not recall how often I met with my mentor.

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

NOAA is interested in learning more about the training opportunities you were given as a result of receiving the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME]. Training opportunities could include the time you spent with your mentor, learning a new technology, or learning about the research process.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My mentor was supportive of my NOAA research project(s).	○	○	○	○	○
The **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]** afforded me the opportunity to develop knowledge of NOAA-related technology.	○	○	○	○	○
The **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]** gave me hands-on research experience.	○	○	○	○	○
My mentor was actively involved in my NOAA research training.	○	○	○	○	○
My mentor was available to me whenever I needed guidance (e.g., answered questions, provided assistance when needed, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○

<<< >>>

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

NOAA is also interested in understanding how your [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience may have provided you with work-related experience. Work-related experiences could include developing a professional network of scholars and researchers, developing skills that could be applied in work-related setting, and gaining experience in the scientific field.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My professional network grew after receiving the **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]**.	○	○	○	○	○
The **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]** gave me hands-on experience in a NOAA-related field.	○	○	○	○	○
My interest in pursuing a NOAA-related career increased after receiving the **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]**.	○	○	○	○	○
As a result of receiving **[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]**, I am more prepared to enter the work force.	○	○	○	○	○

<<< >>>

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please indicate *how instrumental* the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] was in achieving each of the following (where "1" indicates *Not at all instrumental* and "5" indicates *Very instrumental*):

	1 Not at all instrumental	2	3	4	5 Very instrumental	N/A
Graduating	○	○	○	○	○	○
Paying tuition	○	○	○	○	○	○
Paying for academic-related costs (e.g., books, materials, fees, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Paying for living costs (e.g., rent)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Building my research experience	○	○	○	○	○	○
Expanding my professional network	○	○	○	○	○	○
Getting another scholarship/fellowship	○	○	○	○	○	○
Getting accepted to graduate school	○	○	○	○	○	○
Shaping my future education plans	○	○	○	○	○	○
Shaping my future career plans	○	○	○	○	○	○

<<< >>>

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

After the completion of your [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience, did you apply for any additional scholarships or fellowships
scholarship/fellowship name and the year it was awarded:

	Name	Av
		Select
		Select
		Select

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

For the following items, please rate *how valuable* each component of the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] experience was to you:

	1 Not at all valuable	2	3	4	5 Very valuable	N/A
Ability to pay tuition	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to collaborate with a NOAA mentor	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ability to pay for academic-related costs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ability to pay for living costs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to participating in a research internship	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to conduct research on NOAA-related topics	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to develop applied knowledge of NOAA-related technology	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to expand your professional network to include NOAA staff and mentors	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to develop applied knowledge of NOAA-related research processes	○	○	○	○	○	○
Opportunity to present my work to an audience of peers and mentors	○	○	○	○	○	○
Overall NOAA scholarship experience	○	○	○	○	○	○

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

What difference has receiving the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] made to your life?

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Please describe any challenges you encountered during your [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] program experience:

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Would you recommend the [SCHOLARSHIP NAME] program to other students?

- Yes
- No

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Why? Please describe: [Open-ended]

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Why not? Please describe:

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

What is your age?

Select an answer...

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to specify

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

Do you consider yourself to be...

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer not to specify

<<< >>>

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NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SURVEY - DEMO

What is your race? (Select one or more)

- [ ] American Indian or Alaska Native
- [ ] Asian
- [ ] Black or African American
- [ ] Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- [ ] White
- [ ] Prefer not to specify

<<< Submit

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Shaw, VCAT, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 1060, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–1060, telephone number 301–975–2667. Ms. Shaw's email address is *stephanie.shaw@nist.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is for the VCAT to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for NIST, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include updates on NIST activities and a review of NIST's bioscience and information technology research along with external presentations on the future direction and trends of these technical areas. The agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST Web site at *http://www.nist.gov/director/vcat/agenda.cfm.*

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the Committee's affairs are invited to request a place on the agenda.

On Wednesday, June 10, approximately one-half hour in the morning will be reserved for public comments and speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received, but is likely to be about 3 minutes each. The exact time for public comments will be included in the final agenda that will be posted on the NIST Web site at *http://www.nist.gov/director/vcat/agenda.cfm.* Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, and those who were unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements to VCAT, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 1060, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20899, via fax at 301–216–0529 or electronically by email to *Karen.lellock@nist.gov.*

All visitors to the NIST site are required to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, email address and phone number to Stephanie Shaw by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Non-U.S. citizens must submit additional information; please contact Ms. Shaw. Ms. Shaw's email address is *stephanie.shaw@nist.gov* and her phone number is 301–975–2667. Also, please note that under the REAL ID Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–13), federal agencies, including NIST, can only accept a state-issued driver's license or identification card for access to federal facilities if issued by states that are REAL ID compliant or have an extension. NIST also currently accepts other forms of federally-issued identification in lieu of a state-issued driver's license. For detailed information please contact Ms. Shaw or visit: *http://nist.gov/public_affairs/visitor/.*

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 278 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

Richard R. Cavanagh,

Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

[FR Doc. 2015–09973 Filed 4–28–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Evaluation Support Services

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This is a new information collection for Evaluation Support Services.

DATES: Written comments should be received Written comments must be submitted on or before June 29, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *JJessup@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Meka Laster at (301) 628–2906 or sent via email to *meka.laster@noaa.gov.* Individuals who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

Since its establishment in 1970 under the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s primary goals are to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources, and to serve the nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. One of NOAA's staff offices, the Office of Education (OEd), also serves a critical function as the nation's primary educator on matters related to the ocean, coastal resources, the atmosphere, and climate. One of the ways NOAA fulfills its national duty is by providing educational resources and scholarship opportunities for future scholars.

The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program (HUSP) was established in 2005; since then, it has provided support to approximately 1,144 undergraduate students. This scholarship opportunity provides 2 academic years of tuition support (up to $8,000 per year) and a 10-week paid internship with a NOAA mentor to competitive undergraduate scholars in NOAA-related major fields of study. The HUSP also provides undergraduates with additional supports such as living expenses, travel stipends, and conference allowances. The main goals of HUSP include increasing undergraduate training and research in NOAA sciences; recruiting and preparig students for careers as public servants and environmental science educators; and building public understanding of and support for environmental stewardship issues (*i.e.,* increasing environmental literacy).

The Educational Partnership Program (EPP) comprises three unique components: The Undergraduate Scholarship Program (USP), the Graduate Studies Program (GSP), and four Cooperative Science Centers (CSCs). USP is a scholarship opportunity that provides recipients with hands-on research and training in NOAA-related sciences and provides scholars the opportunity to gain valuable work experience at NOAA facilities. To date, USP has funded 175 scholars. GSP is similar, and supported (funded 59 students) graduate students interested in pursuing NOAA mission-critical fields by providing them with work experience and hands-on training in NOAA-related research fields. The CSCs' overarching goal is to increase underrepresentation in STEM and NOAA-related fields by providing education and training opportunities in

these fields. Each CSC has a distinct educational focus, defined mission, partner institution, and designated research partner. In addition to providing education and training opportunities for students, CSCs assist their MSI partners in building their institutional management, scientific, and research capacities in NOAA-related fields.

The proposed evaluation will examine the effectiveness of two of NOAA's OEd scholarship programs: EPP and HUSP. It will also assess the efficacy of the CSCs, which constitute another educational component central to NOAA's educational mission. The primary objective of this evaluation is to determine how well NOAA's HUSP and EPP scholarship programs translate to measurable outcomes for participants.

II. Method of Collection

This proposed mixed-methods evaluation will include the following components:

- Reviews of extant data to understand the program and historical trends.
- Web surveys of HUSP and EPP alumni with telephone follow-up to describe participant experiences and outcomes.
- A regression discontinuity design evaluation of HUSP, EPP USP, and EPP GSP to compare scholarship recipients to similar applicants who did not receive scholarships.
- Site visits to the CSCs to describe institution-level contexts and outcomes.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Request for a new information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,409 survey respondents (1,034 scholarship recipients and 375 scholarship non-recipients); 44 interviewees; 20 focus group participants (interviewees and focus groups composed of Cooperative Science Center management, faculty, and students).

Estimated Time per Response: 25 minutes per recipient survey; 15 minutes per nonrecipient survey; 60 minutes per community partner, institution partner, CSC administrator, and CSC center director interview; 90 minutes per student focus group.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 599.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are eligible to respond.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 24, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015–09967 Filed 4–28–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–12–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD829

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Construction of the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) for an incidental take authorization to take small numbers of California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals, harbor porpoises, and gray whales, by harassment, incidental to construction activities associated with the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SF–OBB) in California. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an authorization to CALTRANS to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of marine mammals for a period of 1 year.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than May 29, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Rob Pauline, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3225. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *itp.pauline@noaa.gov.* NMFS is not responsible for email comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm.* All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

The application used in this document may be obtained by visiting the internet at: *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm.* Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Pauline, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined ''negligible impact'' in 50 CFR 216.103 as ''. . . an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.''