

What is your Impact Identity?

The facilitated exercises and discussion prompts below are meant to help you develop a self-defined, strengths-based Impact Identity. The aim is to clarify for yourself, a unique Broader Impacts niche that expands your professional identity as a researcher and educator via integrated societal impact activities that develop over the course of your career.

Impact Identity, defined...

“Impact identity is a concept that integrates scholarship in a scientific discipline with societal needs, personal preferences, capacities and skills and one’s institutional context.” Risien J. and M Storksdieck, 2018.

Exercise 1: Research Statement and Professional Identity

- A) Describe your current research focus in a 1-3 sentence statement; produce a written version of an ‘elevator pitch’ that you can use to introduce an educated, but lay audience to your research.

- B) At your table, introduce yourself to the small group of colleagues from different fields of research. Make sure to use your elevator pitch.

Exercise 2: Multidimensionality of your Research Identity

- A) List your research field and its connections to societal needs and issues.



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B) Which societal needs and issues **most** connect to your work?

C) In your small group of 2-4 people, reflect on your field's natural connections to societal issues and needs. Which issues are most pressing, interesting or important to you?

Exercise 3: Your Pathways & Motivations to a Researcher Career

A). Create a Quick List of short phrases to reflect on the questions below:

<p>What were your early motivators for going into your field, being a research/teacher; how did you feel about the path ahead?</p>	<p>In what ways were/are you hoping to make an impact and why did you choose this professional pathway? What about it did you find exciting or important?</p>
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B). Think about the present while reflecting on questions below:

How are things different now?	Have your passions changed or evolved?	Do you believe something more or different is possible?
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C). Thinking Ahead, planning for the future:

How might your work actually impact society and for whom?	What is the (your) hidden potential?
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Exercise 4: Craft a Vision or Impact Goal Statement

Work to craft a 1-3 sentence Impact Identity and goals statement. Focus on growth and long-term commitment(s). Use the ideas that are fresh in your mind from the previous exercises – help each other!

- Who are you, what impact can your work have?
- What change do you want to see as a result of your work and why?
- Who is (are) your audience(s) or beneficiaries?
- What are your preferred processes to realize these desired impacts?



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Impact Identity Statement:

Exercise 5: Identifying your impact capacity & assets

The workshop facilitator can help serve as connector to potential partners. You have identified your audience and a frame of the impact you would like to achieve. Now let's see if there is a match to these attributes in the community.

A) Explore, discuss and record:

- What people, programs, expertise, partners, institutions, tools do you already have access to that can help you reach your impact goal?

- What other people, programs, institutions, partnerships, etc. do you need?

B) How will you continue down the path of developing and defining your BI identity?

- One thing to do:

- One person to contact (or get connected to via BI partners workshop or email connection):



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Exercise 6: Next Steps – Dig deeper

Strategize: What if any strategic initiatives and broader impacts does your Directorate advance? What resources are available from NSF that you might leverage and advance? Check Dear Colleague Letters, Directorate Strategic Plan, or NSF Strategic Plan. Review funded award abstracts in your area; what kinds of impacts are you colleagues promising to make? Do your work align? Does it stand out.

Notes:

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