



**SUMMER 2002**

# *Experimental Sites Updates*



## **HE'S BACK!**

Welcome back Brian Ford. A June '02 graduate of the University of Delaware, Brian is working as a summer intern for the Experimental Sites Initiative. He could not stay away! Brian is going over various reports, databases and studies that relate to higher education and students. In addition to that grueling assignment, he is writing X-Sites blurbs on the different experiments. Perhaps, with his melodious voice, we'll get him to sing a few choruses of "I'm so X-Sited."

## **EXPERIMENTAL SITES EXTENSION LETTER**

Please note that the extension letter you received last Spring offering you participation in specific experiments is the most recent agreement between your institution and the Department until the next reauthorization is complete. At this time, you may only participate in the areas you checked. If you did not receive a copy of the countersigned letter, please contact [Jackie.Bannister@ed.gov](mailto:Jackie.Bannister@ed.gov) for a copy.

## **"NEW" ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION DATE**

We heard your concerns regarding the date to submit your Experimental Sites annual report to us. Since other Title IV documents are due to the Department by October 1<sup>st</sup>, several of you asked if we would change the submission date for the annual report. Well....

Beginning with the 2001-2002 report cycle, the new date to submit the annual report following each academic year in which the experiment is in effect is -- **November 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## **2001-2002 REPORT TEMPLATES AND DATA DICTIONARY**

The report workgroup and a KPMG consultant met with us during the QA/X-Sites conference to discuss the report templates and identify recommended changes to the reporting process. Recommendations from the meeting led us to do a slight revision to a few of the templates. The Credit Title IV Aid for Prior Term/Institutional Charges experiments have 2 additional data elements. On the demographic worksheet, we have identified 4 data elements which we will pre-populate with information from our departmental databases. In addition, we have developed a data dictionary explaining each of the data elements for the various experiments. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the templates that will be required for the next report cycle. The ATB participants will have a report template and data dictionary by the next report cycle.

If you want to get an early start, please refer to last year's templates. We're currently working on making the 2001/2002 templates interactive, so that these templates are currently unavailable.

## **2000-2001 EXPERIMENTAL SITES ANALYSIS REPORT**

The report templates are certainly instrumental in our obtaining consistent data on alternative ways of delivering student aid. We received the final Experimental Sites Initiative analysis report developed by KPMG Consulting in May. You have not seen the report because it is making its way through departmental clearance for posting on IFAP. The outcomes continue to show that for your schools and your students, flexibility is a viable alternative. We will share this information as the Department begins to address issues of unnecessary burdens and educational barriers.

## **X-SITES WEBSITE UNDER DEVELOPMENT!**

We soon will have an X-Sites website as part of IFAP. This website is not only an informational piece, but we envision taking advantage of technology. We plan on having interactive capability so you can download the report templates, enter the data, and upload the templates. We are also exploring the possibility of electronic proposal submission. So stay tuned!



*Jacquelyn Bannister, Editor  
Jan Presnell, Design  
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