

# Developing Clarity about Process and Outcomes in a STEM Dissemination Center: The Role of Visuals



Creative Research and Evaluation, LLC

## Evaluators

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## Client

- The Louis Stokes Midwest Center of Excellence
- LSMCE.org



## Funder

- National Science Foundation



# Original Logic Model for the Center\*

## Resources

- 3 Lead Institutions
- 28 Partner Campuses

## Activities

- Annual Conferences
- Cyber Hub
- Help Leveraging Additional Resources

## Outcomes

- Enhanced skills, knowledge, and networks for faculty, students, and administrators
- Stronger programs and increased resources on partner campuses
- Broader participation and success in STEM

# Expanded Scope

- Annual conference for other grantees funded by the same portfolio in NSF.
- The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is a 25 year old initiative that funds groups of campuses to broaden minority participation in STEM.

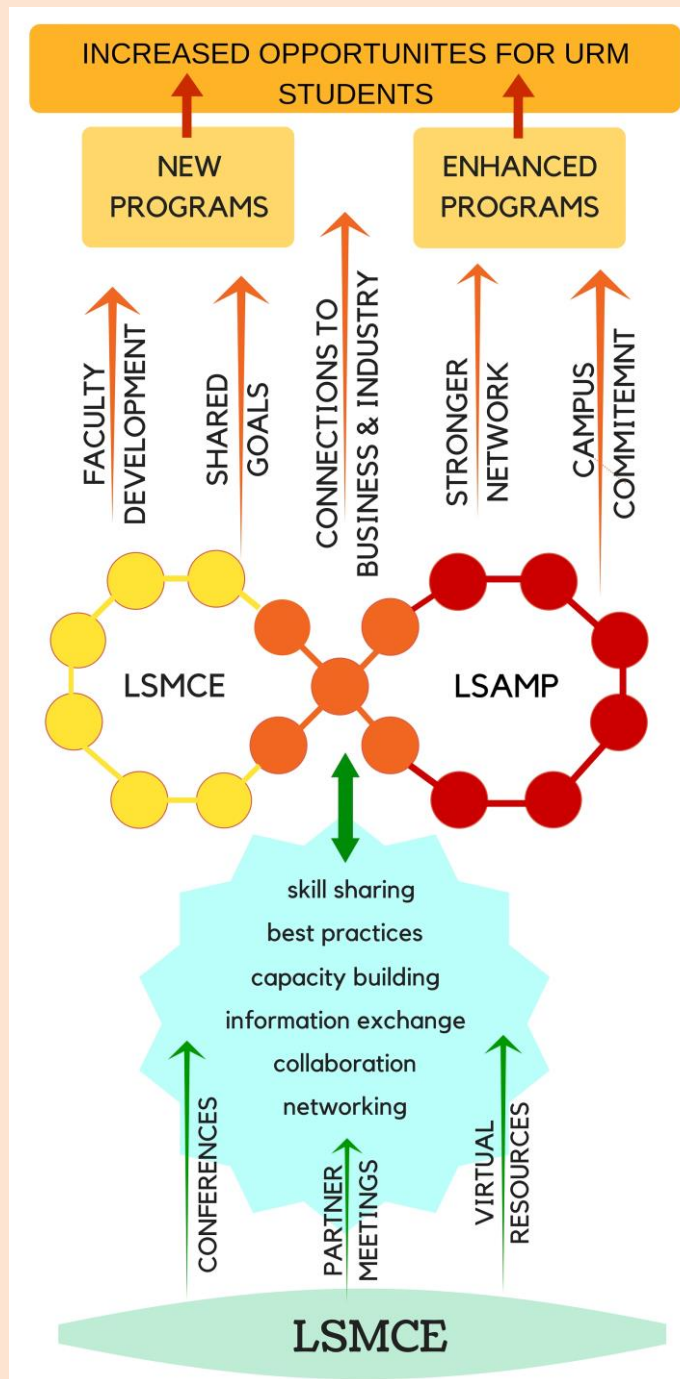
# Changes, Challenges, and Momentum

- Unexpected change in scope of program.
- Evolving understanding of how to recruit partner campuses.
- Uneven baseline capacities among partners.
- High level of excitement about networking and connecting.

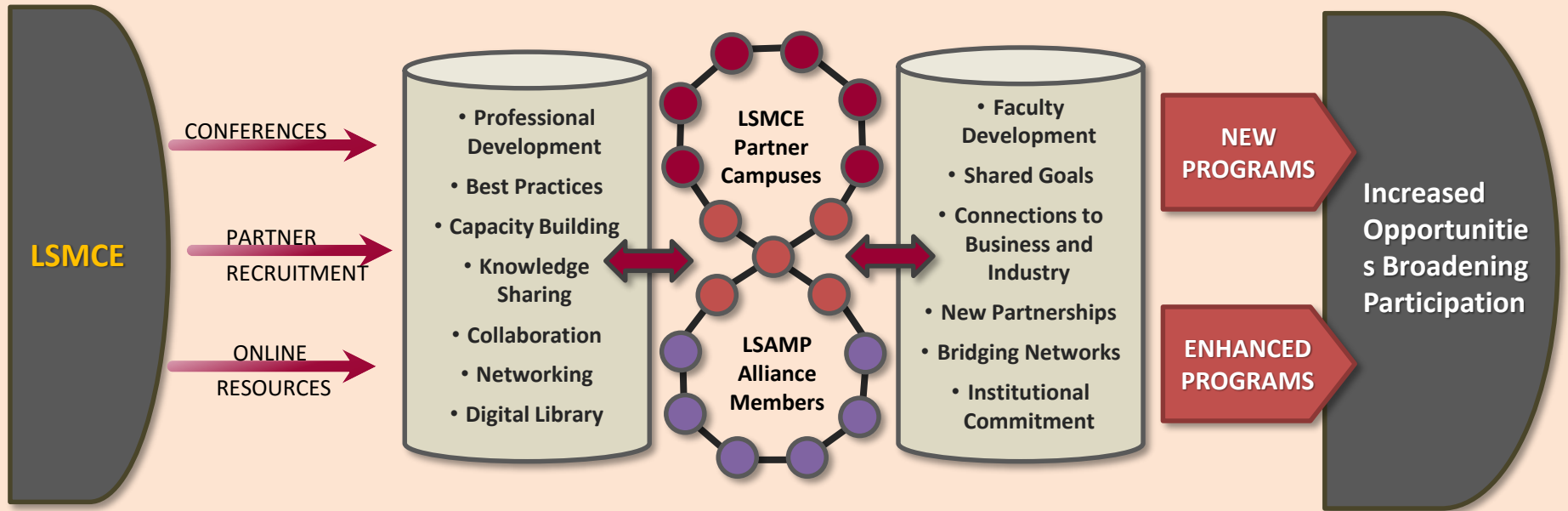
# Connecting the Dots at the LSMCE Annual Conference

- “I kept meeting people who had the same goals and objectives. It was energizing know that others were thinking the same thing.”
  - *New Partner*
- “It would be a good opportunity for NSF program directors to attend meetings and consider how to support alliances as a nationwide effort.”
  - *Experienced Alliance, funded program*

**Multiple  
Constituencies:  
One Goal**



# LSMCE Program Model





# Evaluator Roles and Contributions



# Evaluation Traditions

- **Theory-guided evaluation:** to understand how a program works and how contexts shape program processes and outcomes.
- **Pluralist and participatory evaluation:** (e.g. Stake 1964) to bring stakeholder and participant voices and values to the evaluation and its findings.
- **Decision-management approaches:** (Patton 1997) to collaborate with the key evaluation users to develop and implement the evaluation in ways that will best facilitate the use of evaluation findings.

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