



**MiSTEM:
Collaboratives**



Strategic Planning: Facilitation & Evaluation for Success

Background

The MiSTEM Advisory Council recommended that three collaboratives known as the MiSTEM: Collaboratives be funded to execute and expand the Michigan Statewide STEM Strategy to (a) elevate mathematics, (b) ensure students have science and engineering literacy, and (c) expand access and highlight the importance of computer science. Each collaborative receives funds annually to develop and implement a four-year strategic plan.

Problem

Strategic planning is essential to not only the day-to-day operations of an organization, but is also necessary for program improvement and capacity building. Therefore, it is vital that strategic planning informs the program's evaluation. For this reason, the MiSTEM: Collaboratives worked with Everett Evaluation to refine their strategic plans. Additionally, Everett Evaluation staff developed a plan to evaluate the implementation of the strategic plans.

Solution

Everett Evaluation worked with the MiSTEM: Collaboratives to (a) develop and refine their overall four-year outcomes and yearly goals, (b) identify indicators to measure their outcomes and goals, (c) identify data sources where the data can be found to measure progress toward the goal, (d) establish baseline for each outcome and goal, and (e) establish a monitoring and evaluation system to measure their progress. Everett Evaluation facilitates check-ins to collect both qualitative and quantitative data on their progress on their outcomes and goals.

Outcome

The expertise provided through strategic planning, capacity building, and evaluation meetings enabled each collaborative to finalize their strategic plans with a focus on progress measurement. Each collaborative expressed confidence in their plans, having a clear roadmap of their goals, actions, and measurement methods. This allowed them to focus on implementing the strategic plan for the coming year instead of focusing on the components of the strategic plan itself. Check-in meetings give each collaborative and its workgroups a chance to revisit their original plan, reflect on progress and accomplishments, and plan next steps.