



AZSGC Longitudinal Tracking 101

We've learned that establishing a longitudinal student tracking system requires a multi-pronged approach, careful thought, planning and follow-through.

Step 1: Develop and Maintain a Database of all Past and Present Space Grant Students

Step 2: Contact/Locate Past Space Grant Students

- Searched for past student contact information buried in SG program archival records, University alumni databases, contacted past mentors, department co-sponsors of Graduate Fellowships, etc.
- Emailed all students for whom we have email addresses
- Sent postcards to fellowship students via permanent addresses from CMIS, earlier NASA annual reports, and program files.



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Step 3: Decide What Student Tracking Data Should Be Collected

- Think about this carefully! You want to gather data that will help you demonstrate the overall impact of Space Grant activities on your universities, your state, NASA and the country

Step 4: Develop and use an internet tracking form (see handout page 1)

Step 5: You've Gathered Data--Then What? How to Transform Data to Useable Stats

- Tracking data arrives to me as email at the lead information. I keep a copy of the message/data and forward it to the affiliate that sponsored the student. (This makes sense as we all maintain student databases for our SG sponsored students each year, and add the tracking data to our existing student data files.)



AZSGC Adventures in Longitudinal Tracking

- Data summary statistics are returned to the Lead Institution organized per instructions in "***Converting Tracking Data to Statistics and Other Useable Information***" (see handout-page 2)

Future Enhancements—Gathering Data:

- Adding an alumni page to our www site with a tracking form and information about past students (working with another campus program that has devoted significant resources into developing internet tracking systems). Learn from folks who do a good job at what you need to do!

What Can You Do With the Data and Statistics?

- Many uses for significant statistical information such as: NASA reports, handouts for Congress, program information for university administration, potential sponsors, etc. (see handout-page 3)