

Moving Towards A Research-Based Understanding and Approach to Broader Impacts

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Preface

I am often asked by faculty researchers, University administrators, Societal Benefit Organizations ([SBOs](#)), and Societal Benefit Professionals ([SBPs](#)) to provide a research-based response to the following question: What are some important keys to developing one's broader impacts for National Science Foundation (NSF) proposals?

Faculty know it is vital to develop broader impacts, but they do not necessarily know what the deeper meaning of broader impacts is. To truly understand the scope of broader impacts, we need to go beyond anecdotal descriptions of what others have done. This also applies to other agencies, foundations, and organizations with different broader impacts foci.

This article introduces a research-based definition and framework for understanding, practicing, and starting to operate in broader impacts. This response is a synopsis of several works-in-progress that will be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals and the [e-print](#) document entitled, "Moving Away From Anecdotal Responses to Questions Faculty Have Concerning Broader Impacts". The e-print citation is provided at the bottom of this article.

Brief Introduction, Background, and Methodology

Many do not realize that the concept, meaning, and methodology of broader impacts represent an international phenomenon. An investigation into this phenomenon revealed that at least eighty-two percent (82%) of the countries around the world utilize a range of names, terms, or phrases (NTPs) that embody the concept of broader impacts. Implications of this was discussed in a [previous post](#).

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