CESU Directors Meeting
9-28-2021

* Did around room introductions
* Presentation – CESU Program Characterization and Evaluation
	+ By Tom Fish and Shawn Dalton
	+ Trying to capture the level of activities occurring
		- Capture the main reason for the CESU and how it has grown
		- Using the information that we have
	+ Two approaches
		- Use best available data
		- Appreciative inquiry approach
			* Want to know where things have gone really well and dig into it more
			* Examples: research, technical assistance, education/capacity building
	+ Projects that have gone well
		- North Atlantic Coast – sat around fire and discussed projects that could be conducted cooperatively
			* Facilitating better interaction with larger groups
		- Sharon Ziegler-Chong – contacted by a non-partner and got a graduate student to help on a native peoples story map project
			* Pulled in that non-partner, graduate students, other organization, and the Host University
			* Bringing ideas and relationships together-CESU allowed all of this to happen, was a mechanism
		- Rocky Mountains CESU – annual student award and highlight a students work on a CESU project
			* Students get an opportunity to get experience through a CESU project and then get jobs with either an agency or academia
		- Chesapeake Watershed – projects start with one PI going on because of the federal partners interest and then expands to other institutions
			* Telling stories of national park research via videos for the national parks
		- Tom Fish is the glue – helping educate and to transition CESU Directors
	+ Thoughts on changing climate in which the CESU is operating
		- Originally used for federal partners to gain access to institution resources
		- How has the CESU role changed?
		- Judith - CESU Value – get funding quickly and lots of opportunities for young scientists to get involved in a very directed project – allows them to build a resume of accomplishment
			* Not providing enough PR on the things that CESU does accomplish
			* Option – centralized news and media office
			* Good opportunity to educate on career paths students could be following instead of just professor
		- Training – professional and student
			* Co-development of research
			* Get students direct access to applied research
			* Build on the original intent of the CESU
			* Students better qualified for agency positions
		- Sharon – connection to local communities
			* Definite divide between what the feds are doing and what the local community conservations are
			* CESU is the glue between these two groups – especially student research
			* Great mechanism to engage feds with local roots, resources, and future leaders of the community
		- Connection between one region and their research that occurs elsewhere
		- Many students finding their unknown pathway through the CESU
			* Help students find a career path
		- Diversity, equity, and inclusion – CESU’s role
			* University of Rhode Island- SEER
				+ Developing internships in underrepresented and marginalized neighborhoods where hurricanes or natural disasters occur and train them how to respond to these disasters
		- Requirement that the agency works with the partner (visitor services, students, PIs, etc.)
			* Overlooked relationship building that occurs in the NPS
			* Like idea of research coordinator for other federal partners besides the NPS
				+ Other partners have disconnects over the different regions due to the lack of research coordinator
				+ NPS considered boundary organization
	+ Characteristics of a successful CESU site and why
		- National meeting - time to be reenergized by the collegiality
		- Competitiveness of early career faculty – CESU projects help them launch their careers
		- Solving regional problems – helps moves sites forward in different regions
		- Value of bringing organizations together
		- Have searchable database
		- Have stories/project highlights
		- Have co/located active research coordinators
		- Have passionate leaders
	+ Feel free to send Tom Fish people to have join the PI meetings – other PI or students that are heavily involved in CESU projects
	+ Student network- is there a desirable CESU student network across CESUs
		- Need to figure out how many projects there are and about the students involved in those projects
		- CESU-focus session at all-hands meeting in September 2022 for LTER
			* Students like opportunities for career planning