



Graduate Student Retreat Evaluation

Linda Urban, Boise State University

Graduate Students are an integral part of the REACCH project. Representing multiple universities and disciplines, REACCH graduate students are active participants and researchers in the project's nine "objective area teams" and across REACCH. In September 2012, 22 graduate students and 12 other participants met at a Graduate Student Retreat. The event provided activities and information graduate students need to:

- Understand the overall REACCH project
- Know what is expected of them
- Establish interdisciplinary teams to work on education or extension products
- Lay a foundation for building capacity as a group of interdisciplinary climate and agricultural researchers

Three graduate students from the Instructional & Performance Technology Department at Boise State conducted an evaluation of the Retreat and provided feedback about its effectiveness as an event, and as a step toward helping students meet the goals listed above.

Highlights of the evaluation included:

- Development of a logic model that aligned goals for graduate students with the overall REACCH Project
- Collaboration with members of the REACCH Education Objective team to identify and weight dimensions of merit
- Survey of graduate students & faculty advisors and interviews with a subset of respondents & coordinators
- Report summarizing strengths and identified opportunities for improvement.

Pictures shown, from top to bottom, are:

- 1) Graduate Students at Retreat
- 2) Graduate Students and Faculty collaborating
- 3) Retreat venue (Sandpoint Idaho)

This presentation was given at REACCH 2013 Annual Meeting. This handout and supplemental video are available at reacchpna.org. Funded through Award # 2011-68002-30191 from the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture.