

The NASA support for the GLOBE Program Office (GPO) at UCAR and NSF support for the Earth System Science Projects (ESSP's) will expire in the near future, prompting the need for issuing competitive solicitations. These competitions provide an exciting opportunity to reflect upon the success that GLOBE has achieved over nearly twenty years, explore options for the governance processes of those elements of the GLOBE program that are shared in common across the international GLOBE community, and envision new opportunities for the GLOBE community to thrive.

In early 2012, the U.S. Federal sponsors of GLOBE convened the "Way Forward" panel – chaired by Dr. Dixon Butler – to explore issues and needs related to governance and overall management of the GLOBE program elements that are common in worldwide implementation (e.g., operation of the database, maintenance of the protocols, the planning and setting of program priorities with finite financial resources). The panel released its [DRAFT findings report](#) at the recent annual GLOBE Partners meeting. This panel worked hard and deliberated over the most important elements that have made GLOBE unique and successful, and presented a new conceptual model for GLOBE governance. Many details are still to be worked out and the panel is very interested in receiving feedback from the entire GLOBE community about the merits of their proposals and the details to be defined or refined.

Given the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. Partners that are somewhat different from the non-US Country Partners, their substantial involvement in the program, and the traditional inclusion of a U.S. Country Coordinator in the responsibility for coordination with all partners – international and U.S., the perspectives of the U.S. Partners, in particular, are sought. Comments from the community are welcome through September 30, 2012, but will be most appreciated in the Federal sponsors' deliberation if received by August 15, 2012.

In reviewing the draft panel report, comments related to the following questions are of particular interest to the "Way Forward" panel:

- 1) Does the U.S. Partner community agree that a community-based Board of Governors or Directors that establishes (with broader community input) the high level strategic priorities for the GLOBE program is desirable and serves the U.S. community needs? If not, why not?

- 2) The original version of the draft report has focused on the overall role of the GLOBE community in the governing process, but did not explicitly detail the ways the U.S. Partners would provide input into the process. Referencing the slightly modified graphic below,
 - Is there a need for a dedicated U.S. Country Coordinator? Why or why not?
 - Is there a need for a dedicated U.S. Support Office to support GLOBE implementation in the U.S. where the control of the education system is with State or local authorities?
 - What functions are needed that are distinct from the responsibilities of GLOBE Support Office(s) for program-wide implementation? What are the pros and cons of establishing such a U.S. Support Office?

