Building the STEM Partnership Toolkit:

- Choosing your spots carefully
- Measuring twice
- And finding your spanner when you need it

Dr. Gordon Kingsley
School of Public Policy
gkingsley@gatech.edu
Questions

• What are institutional arrangements that provide effective platforms for facilitating successful collaborations?

• What are the barriers to accomplishing common goals across collaborating organizations? How can these barriers be overcome?
Starting Point Effects: Variance in Expectations

- Entity Based Definitions
- Venue Based Definitions
- Process Based Definitions
- Agreement Based Definitions
- Anchoring Effect: A key factor in evaluations is to assess the level of agreement amongst participants as to their definitions of partnership.
Issues of Partnership as a Policy Tool

• In STEM Education partnership & collaboration is a preferred policy tool for transferring the benefits of public research investments

• Tension between federalism and knowledge transfer: NOFA’s and the Escalation of Collaboration Rhetoric

• Variety of instruments for partnering and collaboration and the problem of scale

• The growth in inter-sector partnering
Collaborations & Partnerships have Costs

• The term may be threatening
• Work flow, interruptions, non-routine tasks
• Mutuality in absorbing transaction costs
• Exporting procedures and other forms of asset specificity
• Partnership identity vs. organization identity
• Mutual evaluations by partners and stakeholders
Developments in Effective Partnering

• Applications of risk management to partnering
• Cultivation and career paths for boundary spanners
• Accounting for interaction effects of programs in schools and target populations
• Cultivation of communities of practice for sustained engagement beyond the life of projects
• Portfolio management by partners: picking spots for sustained engagement
Developments in Effective Partnering II

• Attention to changes in institutions and routines or normal work life that sustain knowledge transfer

• New technologies for instruction and knowledge transfer; social media, visualization, apps, MOOCs
Acknowledgements

• National Research Council
• Space Studies Board
• Board on Science Education
• 2014 Workshop
• Sharing the Adventure with the Student: Exploring the Intersections of NASA Space Science and Education