Lessons Learned from ADVANCE at the UW-Madison

What we wish we had known....
Issues to think about as you begin

- Administrative
- Programmatic
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Evaluation
- Sustainability
- Dissemination
- Surprises
Lesson Learned, Administrative

- How to get the most out of your “Internal Collaborators”
  - Pay them well
  - Keep them engaged
  - Add new folks as you can
  - Define expectations explicitly, and at the beginning
Lesson Learned, Programmatic

- Don’t be afraid to deviate from your proposal if needed
  - Do be careful if you are deviating from your cooperative agreement
  - Use evaluation results to inform “mid-stream corrections”
  - New ideas, new opportunities may present themselves
Lesson Learned, Evaluation

- Do not skimp on evaluation
  - Evaluation is the key to sustainability
  - Do not underestimate the power of qualitative evaluation ("the power of the quote")
  - Having an internal evaluation team has been instrumental to our success
    - Intimately familiar with program
    - Able to add/change quickly
    - Add and subtract staff as needed
  - Invest in a color printer
Lesson Learned, Administrative/Sustainability

- Hire a high-level “program coordinator”
  - Represent program to top administrators
  - Prepare reports/publications
  - Analyze data
  - Good organizational skills, communication skills
- Obtain commitment from University to fund position after ADVANCE
  - Evidence of institutional commitment/sustainability
  - Recruiting tool
Lesson Learned, Surprises

- PIs become “lightening rods”
  - Clip of Molly Carnes