

October Executives' Conference Innovation Workshop

At the October Executives' Conference, we participated in a lively workshop on the Network's efforts to develop a Center for Innovation and Research. For your information, we attached a copy of the PowerPoint used by Mike Mozenter, our facilitator. The following are five questions we wrestled with during the three-hour workshop:

1. What is the Center for Innovation and Research?

To start, it's not a physical place. The Center will be an array of resources the Network could apply to help Members transform ideas into actions. The work to date is the first step in the Center development process.

2. What does the word "innovation" mean and how is it relevant to my day-to-day challenges?

Severely overused, the word "innovation" has become almost useless. For our purposes "innovation" is INTENTIONAL, CONTINUOUS and ASPIRATIONAL problem-solving.

3. Are Members currently engaged in innovative activities that others would value?

The short answer is "yes." Mike spoke with leaders of 21 Member organizations from the US, Canada and Israel. The PowerPoint lists several examples of the innovative activities, partnerships, programs and technologies Members shared with him.

4. What could the Network do to help Members transform more innovative ideas into actions?

The top few answers identified prior to and during the workshop are listed in the PowerPoint. Suggestions focused on information capture/curation/sharing, skill-building, program/technology testing, shared services and data aggregation.

5. What are the next steps in establishing the Center for Innovation and Research initiative?

The Innovation Working Group will meet by phone later this month to identify next steps in the Center development process.

If you have ideas or questions, feel free to call Reuben or one of the members of the Innovation Working Group listed towards the end of the PowerPoint.