



ORIENTATION



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G92U2hgv49E>



What does “First2” mean?



# MISSION

To increase the number of students graduating in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by:

1. focusing on students who are the first in their families to go to college or are underrepresented in STEM
2. focusing on these students' first two years of college – a critical breaking point in the college and career pathway for many of our brightest and best students



# AIM

- Double the number of STEM graduates (from 30% - 60%) in 10 years
- Complete a comprehensive research study to advance understanding of the factors affecting rural first-generation student entry into and persistence in STEM career pathways
- Build a collaborative culture that results in sustainable, long-lived improvement networks
- Create a model program for other states with similar economies within 5 years



# VALUES

- Students are co-creators of the solutions to STEM persistence
- Students speak first, students come first
- Holistic approach to student success
- Diversity and inclusion



# How First2 Got Started

First2 Network began as a pilot project in 2016.

- 1) Providing early exposure to STEM research to rising college freshmen
- 2) Supporting student leadership and agency



# NSF INCLUDES

National Science Foundation Inclusion Across Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science

“Transforming education and career pathways to help broaden participation in science and engineering.”

“NSF INCLUDES supports efforts with the potential to achieve significant broader impacts that span well beyond a particular program, city or even state.”

-NSF's 10 Big Ideas Website

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*"Our nation's future prosperity relies on advancing the frontiers of science—and researching our full potential requires including all Americans in that effort."*

- Dr. France A. Córdova,  
Former Director, National  
Science Foundation

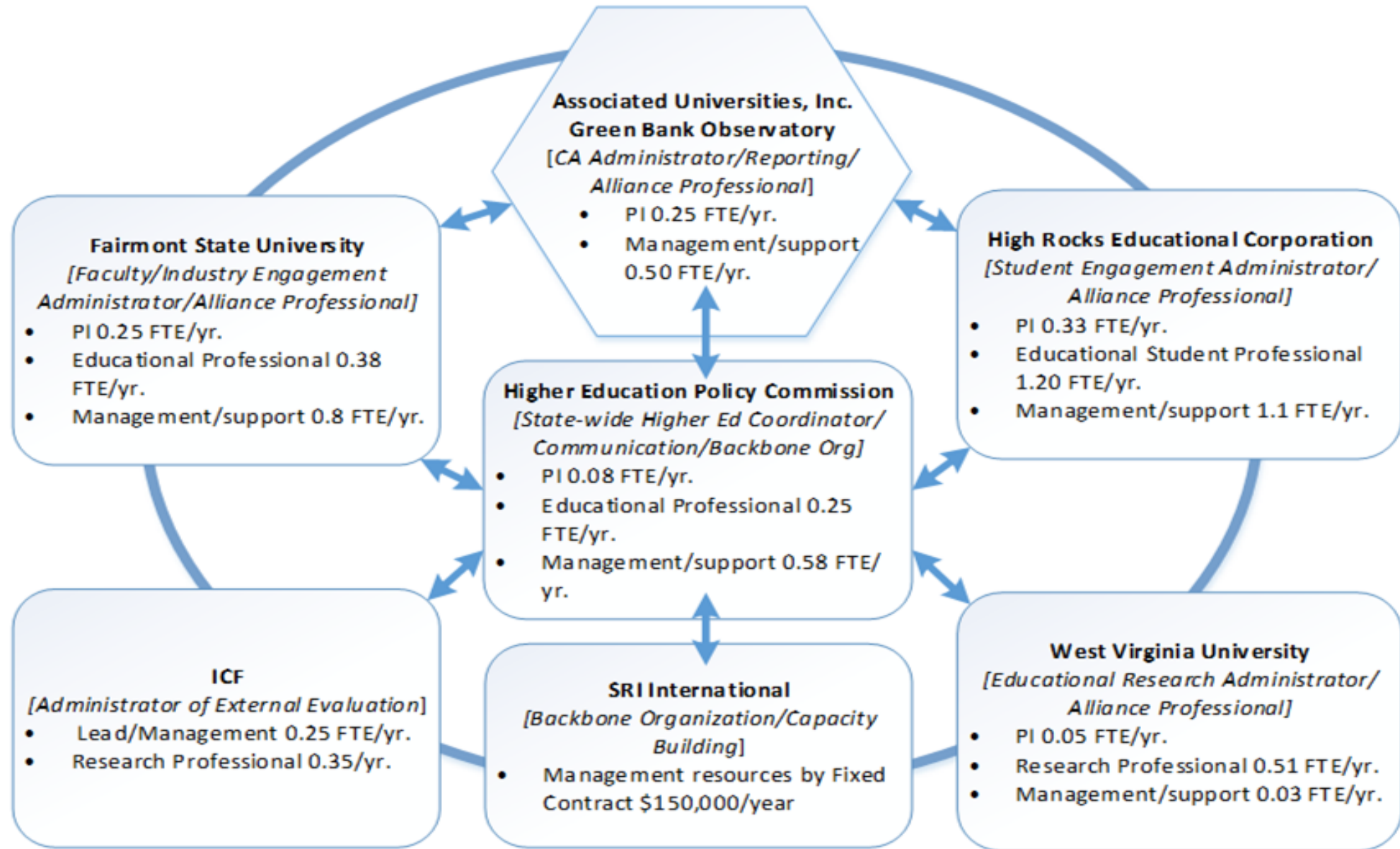






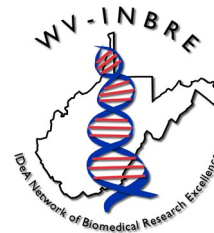
# NSF Funding

In September 2018, *First2* received a National Science Foundation (NSF) INCLUDES award of \$7.15 million for the next five years.





# First2 Partners





# Working Groups

**College Readiness**

**Faculty-Student  
Engagement**

**Immersive Experiences**

**Student Leadership**

**Industry Advisory Board**

**First2 Student Alumni**



## Student Involvement

- Summer Immersive Experiences
- First2 Network Campus Clubs
- Hometown Ambassador
- Legislative and Policy Ambassador
- Institutional Ambassador
- Peer Mentoring
- Campus Research Mentoring
- Leadership Training and Development
- Student Director
- Working Groups



First2 Students participating in Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol



# The Future of First2

- Expand throughout all of West Virginia
  - K-12 programs
  - Non-profit institutions
  - Industry partnerships
  - Colleges and universities
- Expand to states with similar economies





# First2 Network Advisory Committee



Dr. Ulises Toledo



Anne Barth



Supt. Clayton Burch



Dr. Amelia Courts



Chancellor Sarah Tucker



Senator Robert Plymale



David Mohr



Dr. Donna Hoylman Peduto



# Questions?

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