

This newsletter provides an overview of PIRE project participants, strengths and challenges, and progress on project goals.

Project Components

Collaboration

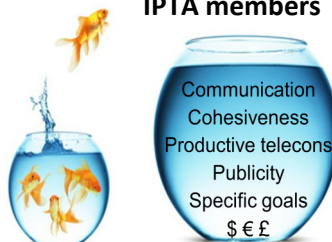
- IPTA Student and Science Meetings
- Research Abroad Experiences
- Collaborative Projects
- IPTA Steering Committee
- International Data Sharing
- International Projects
- Data Challenges

IPTA participants identified activities that have contributed the most to the increased cohesiveness and focus of the IPTA and its consortiums.

Many participants noted collaboration-related activities, including research abroad experiences, collaborative projects, IPTA student and science meetings, IPTA steering committee, international data sharing, and data challenges.

IPTA student and science meetings were noted as the most important activity.

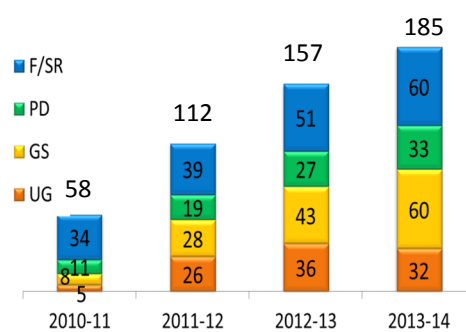
Challenges identified by IPTA members



PROJECT GOALS

- Goal 1: Knowledge
- Goal 2: Education
- Goal 3: Partnerships
- Goal 4: Institutional Capacity
- Goal 5: Workforce Development

PIRE Project Participants



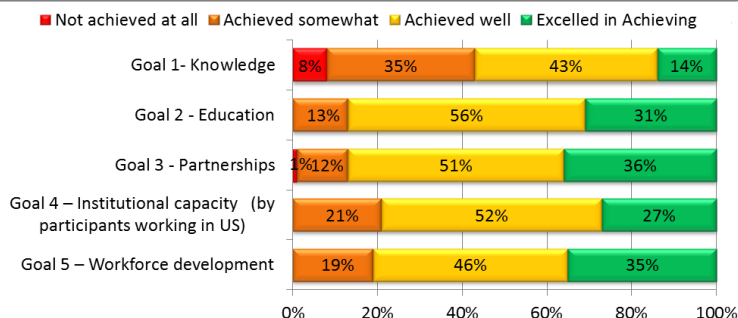
The number of PIRE participants has more than tripled. The number of postdocs and grad students has grown dramatically. The number of senior researchers and faculty has grown steadily. Undergrad participation and recruitment should be maintained.

Achievement of Project Goals

Seventy-seven senior researchers, faculty, postdocs, grad students, and undergrads completed the annual post-survey to assess progress toward achieving the five project goals.

Participants' ratings of overall project goal achievement

Between 57% and 87% of participants rated the goals as having been *achieved well* or *excelled in achieving*. It is interesting to note that progress made on knowledge gains was rated the lowest. Development of collaborative partnerships and education were rated the highest.



The Big Picture

Strongest areas:

- * Interest in collaboration
- * Sense of ability to develop successful collaborative partnerships
- * Value of collaborating
- * Workforce development—Overall numbers and international diversity

Slowed areas:

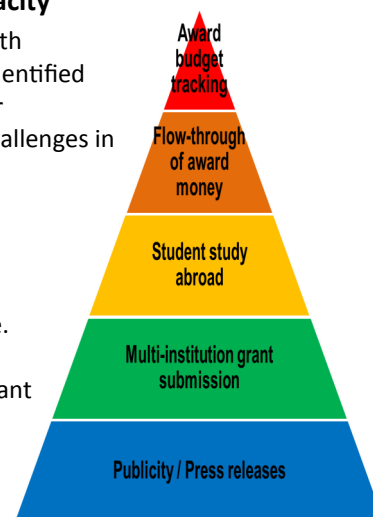
- * Progress has slowed on goal achievement
- * Sense of having made scientific discoveries or breakthroughs
- * Strategic planning
- * Institutional capacity
- * Representation of females and underrepresented minority participants



Goal 4: Institutional Capacity

The five co-PIs who work with research abroad students identified challenges they face at their universities. They ranked challenges in order of importance.

Co-PIs commented that resolving issues related to award budgets was most important at this time. However facilitating study abroad, multi-institution grant submission and project publicity was also an important aspect to be improved.



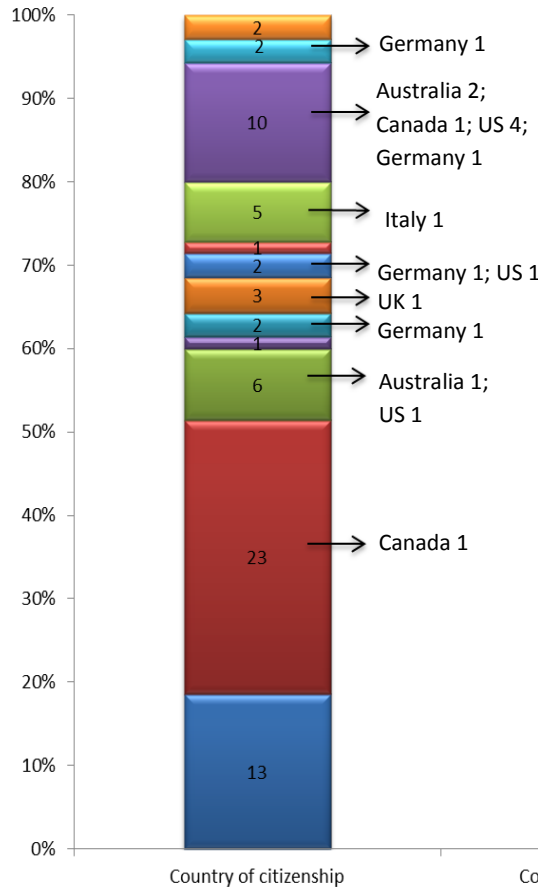
Goal Highlights

Goal 5 - Workforce Development

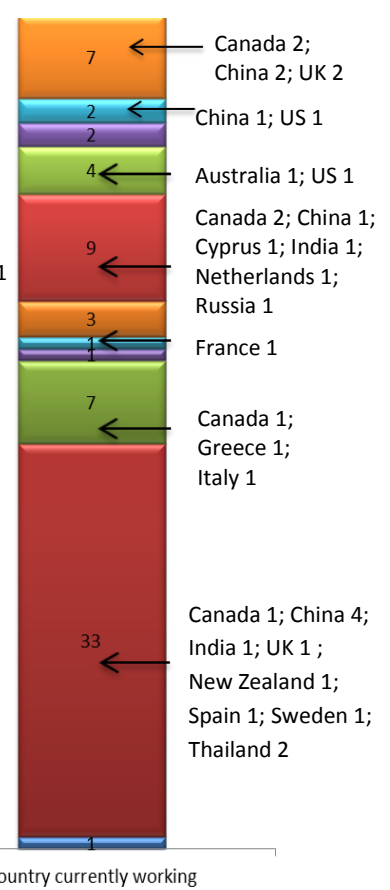
- Data are reported for the 70 PIRE participants who completed a demographic survey at the Annual IPTA Science Meeting.
- The difference in numbers between citizenship and working location indicate that people are leaving their home countries to work in Australia, Germany, Canada, the UK, and the US indicating some countries may be becoming centers for pulsar and GW research.
- Some citizens are leaving China and India to work in other countries.
- In addition to the countries displayed, 8 other citizenships were represented: Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and New Zealand.



Where are people going?



Where are people coming from?



Key Findings and Recommendations

Personally invite females and minority students to participate in this PIRE project.

Encourage undergraduates to become more involved in the PIRE project and evaluation activities.

Consider offering training on the topic of cross-cultural collaborations.

Continue to develop and maintain positive relationships with international partners.

Continue to develop and implement new outreach programs to recruit undergraduate students into astrophysics education.

Welcome and support new people.

Promote more visible leadership.

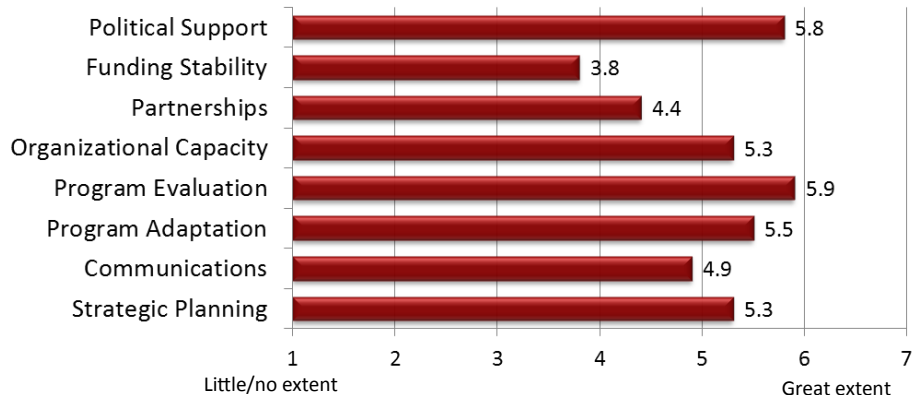
Strategically plan for the future, including reviewing all benchmarks and milestones with broader vision.

Continue to build institutional capacity and plan for program sustainability

Be optimistic. The project has made great progress!

Progress Towards Sustainability

Senior PIRE personnel rated the current level of PIRE project sustainability on the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT) from 1 (low) to 7 (high). Results help PIRE leaders identify next steps in building program capacity for sustainability. The domain categories with the highest means were Political Support and Program Evaluation. The domain category with the lowest mean was Funding Stability. Across all of the domain categories, the item with the lowest average was "The program has sustained funding" in the Funding Stability category. The item with the highest average was "The program has political support within the larger organization" in the Political Support category.



Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Report results of International Student Workshop & Science Meeting in Thailand.
- Conduct post-survey and post-IDI of Research Abroad Experience students.
- Conduct telephone interviews with Research Abroad Experience Mentors.