

Sustaining the ERC After Graduation

Breakout Session I, December 3, 2009



Breakout Objective

**Objective is to Explore and Discuss
Successful Approaches to Sustainability**

- **How to keep system-level, cross-disciplinary work alive after transitioning to self-sufficiency**
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Breakout Panel Members

- **John Baras**, founding director of the University Maryland Institute for Systems Research ERC. Established in 1985 and have been self-sufficient for about 13 years.
 - **Bob Lewis**, director of technology transfer for the University of Minnesota Industrial Partnership for Interfacial and Materials Engineering ERC. Established in 1988 and have been self-sufficient for about 10 years.
 - **William Michalerya**, former industrial liaison officer for Lehigh University's Center for Advanced Technology for Large Structural Systems. Established in 1986 and have been self-sufficient for about 12 years.
 - **James Williams**, former executive director of the Data Storage Systems Center at Carnegie Mellon University. Established in 1990 and have been self-sufficient for about 8 years.
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Breakout Format and Agenda

- **James Williams, SciTech Communications**
- **Bob Lewis, University of Minnesota**
- **John Baras, University of Maryland**
- **William Michalerya, Lehigh University**
- **Panel Discussion and Q and A**

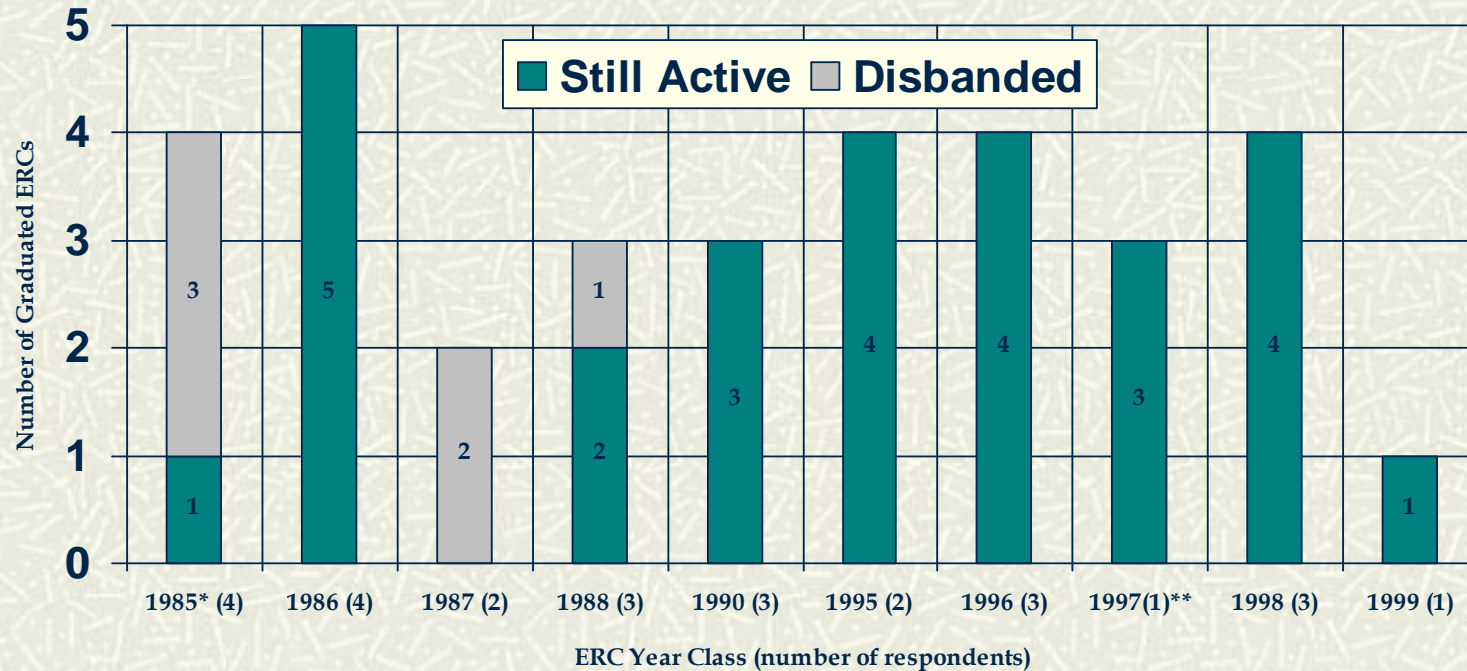


Self-Sustaining Graduated ERCs

Currently Self-Sustaining: 27 out of 33=82%

Range of current funding for responding Centers in each year

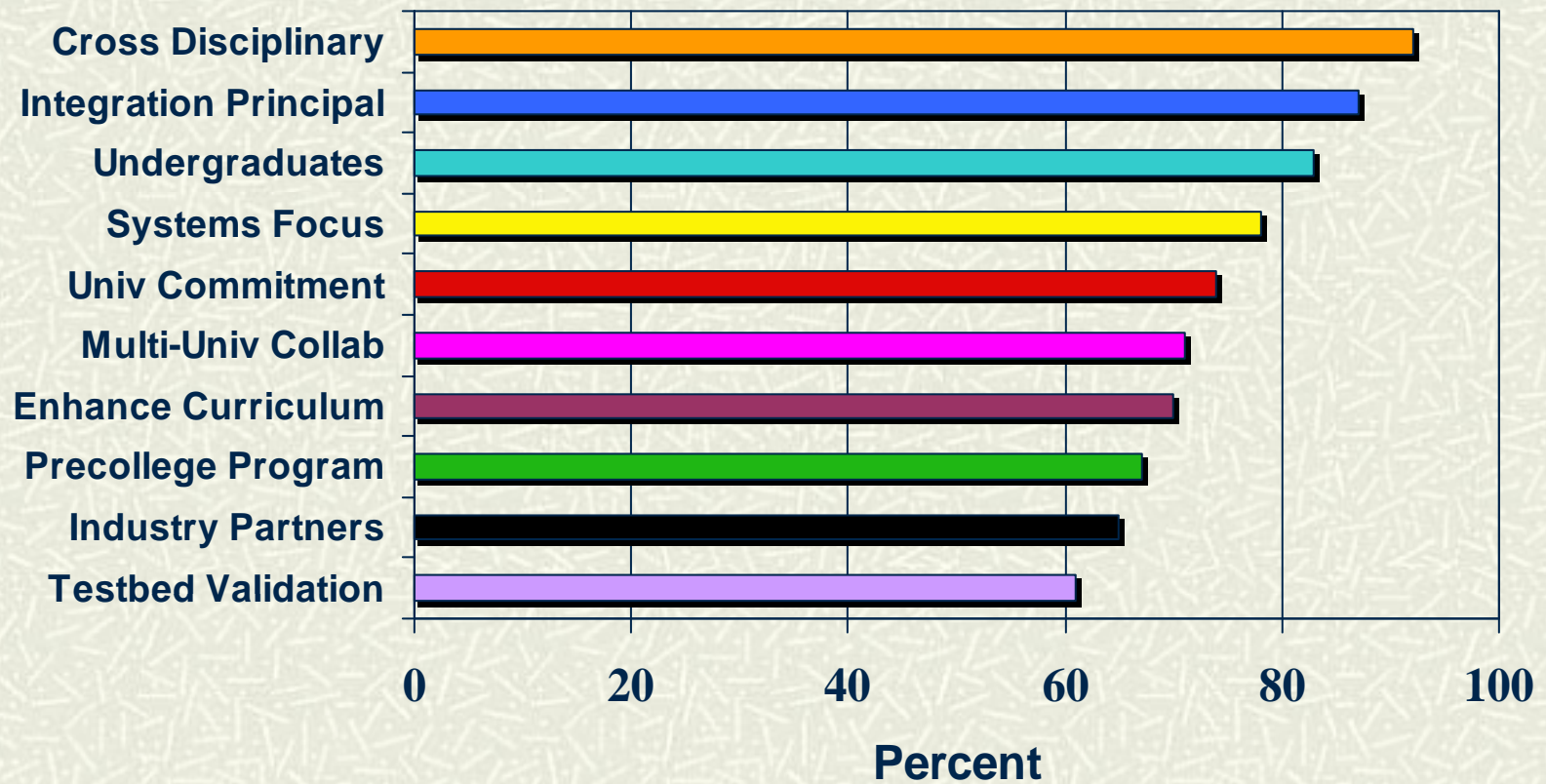
\$9.0-14M \$0.5-8.0M \$0M \$1.4-2.5M \$5.0-50M \$2.0-5.0M \$1.7-4.0M \$2.5M \$0.7-5.3M \$0.3M



****Four Centers graduated. One remains active; four (4) responded to the survey.**

****Three Earthquake Engineering Research Centers were funded in 1997 with funds outside of the ERC Program but were managed by the ERC Program from 1999 through their graduation from NSF support.**

Key ERC Characteristics Still in Place



Factors Affecting Successful Transition

- **Broad involvement in transition planning**
- **Effective implementation of a realistic strategy**
- **Institutional factors---degree of university commitment**
- **Valued education program**
- **Commitment of core group of faculty**
- **Active industrial support**
- **Quality of leadership**



Conclusions

- **Weathered the loss of NSF funding fairly well**
- **Downsized and eliminated programs/infrastructure**
- **Adjusted to funding changes; increased short-term focus**
- **Basic science, staff, undergraduate, outreach vulnerable**
- **Appreciated value of being an ERC**
- **NSF helpful in managing transition process**
- **Suggested flexibility in ERC funding/life span**