

Leadership 201 Action Learning Scenario

Expect Innovation from the Enterprise Information Office: 21st Century Information Technology for 21st Century Science!

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Problem Statement:

How can we establish better partnerships/collaboration that allows the Office of Enterprise Information, which is traditionally viewed as providing basic Service Desk, Hosting, Telecommunications and Security services, to provide advanced computing and technology services to support the innovation and research needed for 21st century science.

Issue/Challenges: OEI budget and employee attrition has only allowed a 'keep the lights on' mentality leading OEI to only support traditional infrastructure type services.

The USGS culture allows for a distributed, decentralized IT environment, at times, making integration complex or stove-piped.

USGS Mission systems typically run all IT related services, including Tier 1 desktop support and Data Center operations.

OEI budgets do not have the flexibility for Innovation activities.

The USGS has both legacy and advanced IT environments, depending on the location.

The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 places increased security requirements on Federal systems, many times not aligning with Science needs.

The Department of the Interior (DOI), through many Office of Management and Budget directives, at times, restricts the ability for USGS 'to be different'.

While OEI is responsible for all IT related activities in the USGS, to DOI, OEI does not maintain or have access to 75% of the USGS systems.

While OEI is responsible for approving new technology acquisitions, OEI does not participate in Science Center planning or projects requesting new technology.

Science Centers see Headquarters functions as being a road block.

Background Material/Resources:

ACES Report

OEI Budget attrition worksheet

OEI Service Catalog

DOI IT Transformation Secretarial Order 3309

A sample OMB requirement and USGS implementation (As an example)

OEI's Function Statement

OEI Strategy Map

Expectations: Provide suggestions on how best OEI can engage with Science Centers and Missions for advanced integrated IT solutions.

Provide suggestions to how OEI establishes a program for innovation that grows from Science Center and Missions requirements.

Utilize examples within a student's own office or program where Information Technology could advance 21'st Century Science or how opportunities are waiting for a solution that OEI can collaborate on.

Provide recommendations as to how OEI can provide innovative solutions either by sharing best practices developed at specific centers or provide the service themselves.