

## APPENDIX A: RDAS USER INITIAL CONTACT EMAIL

Dear \_\_\_,

On behalf of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation, RTI International would like to introduce the *new* Restricted Data Analysis System (RDAS) for the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) data, and **invite you to try out the RDAS data tool**.

The Restricted Data Analysis System (RDAS) is an online tool designed to expand public access to the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) data. It provides a secure platform to access a comprehensive set of SED variables and empowers users to create complex data tables at the click of a button. The data within the SED RDAS tool is based on a sample of individuals, and has been subjected to statistical procedures to a) produce estimates that reflect the entire population of doctorate recipients and b) protect the confidentiality of individual level data.

The RDAS includes demographic variables, field of study, variables, and some information on education history and postdoctoral plans. Characteristics of the doctorate institution are included, but institution names are not available for confidentiality protection.

NCSES is interested in learning more about whether and how the RDAS will meet your SED data needs. Your feedback is valuable in informing improvements to the RDAS. As part of this effort, **we are reaching out to you to experiment with the new RDAS tool and complete the user feedback form online**.

Please visit the RDAS website, create an account, and explore the tool. Then complete the feedback form.

The RDAS can be accessed at <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/rdas/>.

The feedback form is located at [URL].

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number; the number for this is 3145-0215. We estimate that exploration of the RDAS data tools and completing the form should take no more than 1 hour to complete, and request that you **complete the form by [INSERT DATE]**. We would really appreciate your help in our effort to improve the SED data access to the public.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [RDAS\\_support@rti.org](mailto:RDAS_support@rti.org) with any questions or technical assistance. Your participation is voluntary and declining to participate will not impact any future restricted use file licensing requests.

We would greatly appreciate your help.

Kelly Kang  
SED Project Officer  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation