

CPE STEM Task Force

Government Sector

New Ideas

January 31, 2007

IDEAS

- Regarding communication: need to raise awareness that math / science is not “geeky” (eg engineer that created Zune)
- Need to create the jobs and communicate job opportunities to future workers
- Teachers not making enough to be attracted into field. Then, teachers not keeping abreast of current developments in the field
- Leaking top teachers – they leave the profession at higher rates
- Must bring up skills of elementary teachers. Teacher preparation programs are not providing that
- Pay is not high enough to attract math/ science professionals in the classroom. Alternative credentialing needed – still takes 1-2 years of more education training to teach
- Find ways to involve local communities/citizens, eg
 - Hold statewide forums with cities
 - Meetings between academia and Main Street
- Use students to help get other students interested in /aware of STEM opportunities. How do we get the “nerds” to lead? How do we lead students to opportunities?
- What happens in middle school to student success in math / science? Students “fall off a cliff”
- Are there parts of SB1 that have not been adequately addressed by our task force? Need to look at this.
- Teachers now have so many extra duties, this is detracting from teaching
- **We should put a HIGH PRIORITY on teacher professional development.** Perhaps start with interdisciplinary math /reading instruction in elementary grades

PRIORITIES

- Communication campaign
 - Coordination of all partners (government, cities, schools, business, etc.)
 - Involve parents
- Need just one focused message stake in the ground, like Kentucky trying to be a leader in sustainable energy
- Opportunities in the energy field – how to market this to future workers. Need federal and state funds to incent new technologies – continue to seek labs
- Differential pay: How do we overcome/ answer question “Why do we pay math/science teachers more than kindergarten teachers? The work is jus as important.” Difficult communication challenge. Possible responses – competitive salaries in private sector/ industry fields. Shortages/ over supply. Market demand.
- Need more role models. Students are influenced by their favorite teachers. NASA was a big role model for boomers – who are the new role models?
- NEED NEW ALTERNATIVE ROUTES, more efficient and effective education curriculum a disincentive for good students.
- Need to find ways to promote culture of creativity and innovation (ala Florida)
- Another big message (or Stake for campaign) – Math and science skills have value. We need them. We don’t have enough.
- (Some difference of opinion regarding the core message for communication campaign) Energy vs. Value of Math /Science