

Council on Postsecondary Education
April 4, 2007

STEM Task Force Recommendations

The STEM Task Force was charged by the Council's Research, Economic Development, and Commercialization Policy Group to review issues related to the support and enhancement of Kentucky's P-20 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) pipeline and disciplines. Additionally, the Task Force is charged with developing a statewide P-20 strategic action plan to accelerate Kentucky's performance within the STEM disciplines.

ACTION: The Research, Economic Development, and Commercialization Policy Group recommends that the Council accept the eight recommendations of the STEM Task Force detailed in the March 2007 report *Kentucky's STEM Imperative: Competing in the Global Economy*.

1. Energize and fund a statewide public awareness campaign to help Kentuckians understand the critical importance of STEM to their own economic competitiveness and to that of the Commonwealth.
2. Create incentives and a supportive environment for students, teachers, and institutions that pursue, succeed, and excel in STEM disciplines throughout the P-20 pipeline.
3. Implement international best practices in professional development programs for P-16 STEM teachers to increase the intensity, duration, and rigor of professional development.
4. Improve teacher preparation programs and encourage people with undergraduate and graduate STEM degrees to enter the teaching profession.
5. Revolutionize how STEM subjects are taught, learned, and assessed, and implement a statewide research-based STEM curriculum that is aligned with global workforce and academic standards.
6. Engage business, industry, and civic leaders to improve STEM education and skills in the Commonwealth and create incentives for Kentucky businesses that employ and invest in STEM educated students.

7. Develop an ongoing, coordinated statewide STEM initiative that maximizes the impact of resources among state agencies, schools, colleges and universities, and businesses and is focused on developing and attracting STEM-related jobs to Kentucky.
8. Target energy sustainability problems and opportunities in Kentucky and the nation as a primary objective of statewide STEM enhancements.

An electronic copy of the STEM Task Force report was distributed to Council members March 15, 2007, and is available on the Council's Web site at http://cpe.ky.gov/news/reports/cpe_reports/stem. The report was rolled out at a press conference March 20, 2007, at Tates Creek Senior High School in Lexington.

During April STEM Task Force members will have the opportunity to join study groups that are related to each of the eight recommendations. The STEM study groups will meet from April to August to develop more detailed implementation action plans associated with each of the eight recommendations. The implementation action plans will be released in September 2007 to be utilized in developing the 2008-10 biennial budget recommendations from the Council.

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