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STEM Collaborative Action Plan (STEMCAP) A California Innovation Corridor (CIC) WIRED Grant Project

Background

On February 1, 2006, the California Innovation Corridor (CIC) – California’s Alameda County in the north to San Diego County in the South, plus Antelope Valley and the Inland Empire) was named as one of 13 regions nationwide awarded a Department of Labor (DOL) grant under the DOL “Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (WIRED)” Initiative. Grant awardee was the California Space Authority (CSA), with over 60+ partners – industry and small business, State of California, workforce, economic development and venture capital entities, educational and academic institutions and other nonprofits are among the partners, as is the California Space Education and Workforce Institute (CSEWI), which is the lead on three of the 25 projects within the CIC WIRED grant initiative.

One of CSEWI’s two WIRED projects is the STEM Collaborative Action Plan (STEMCAP). The project goal is to “Develop a collaboration and a strategic action plan to increase the number and support the development of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students, graduates, teachers, professors and mentors within the California Innovation Corridor and the State of California, leveraging the resources and efforts not only of education and academia (K-20, public and private), but of industry and the informal science network.”

WIRED grant partners in the project include California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly, SLO); El Camino College; California Council on Science and Technology (CCST), Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA - UC President’s Office), Strategic Vitality, LLC. The Teacher Education Office/Public School Programs Office of the California State University (CSU) Chancellor’s Office already had been in dialogue with CSA on education issues and the California Community College Chancellor’s Office was asked to become involved and an organizing committee was created of these two organizations plus the WIRED grant partners.

A preliminary partnership-building forum was put together June 28th, engaging some industry and informal science representation, featuring STEM overviews from each of the systems, as well as break out sessions on Access and Equity Strategies, Effective (STEM) Recruitment, Transition Points and Strategies, STEM Partnership Barriers and Opportunities.

Since then, CSA has focused on getting funded partners on contract, hiring a CSEWI executive director, and scoping the three year project, which has now taken place.

Three-Year STEM Project Overview

Year One:

- Develop an organizing committee and hold a preliminary forum
- Develop a steering committee*
- Determine elements (main sections) of the STEM Collaborative Action Plan
- Align those elements with working groups** to develop Plan content
- Develop a schedule of working group sessions (forums) to do primary Plan development
- Design/execute STEM inventory among STEM stakeholders participating in STEMCAP
- Recruit Steering Committee and hold orientation/planning meeting
- Host kick-off working group forum

*It was determined that a broad-based collaboration was necessary to ensure success of the project. For the Steering Committee, in addition to the Chancellors Offices of the CSU, the Community Colleges, the UC President's Office, CSA and others already engaged, it was determined that briefings should be given and/or support should be sought from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, the California Department of Education, from the Alliances for Regional Collaboration to Heighten Educational Successes (ARCHES), from industry and informal science, the K-12 and the teaching community, as well. The California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) has been recruited for the Steering Committee, as of this September.

** Working group activity will primarily take place at hosted STEMCAP forums/working group sessions, with electronic dialogue in the interim. Working group chairs will be inter-segmental and be selected across sectors of education, industry and informal science.

Year Two:

- Host working group forums
- Monitor progress of working groups
- Report working group progress to Steering Committee
- Develop supplemental sections of Plan (CSEWI)
- Identify outreach opportunities for finished Plan within educational systems, academia, industry, informal science
- Compile working group information into final draft of Plan

Year Three:

- Present final draft of Plan to Steering Committee; develop Outreach Plan
- Release Plan with any Steering Committee revisions
- Execute Outreach Plan

Upcoming Event/Activity:

The next STEMCAP forum will be held December 9, 2006 (Westin LAX, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles) and will serve as a kick-off forum for the STEMCAP working groups developing the elements of the Action Plan.