

2006-2007 STEM Update
Moving the Greater Philadelphia region forward in support of STEM education and workforce development

A year ago this month, on March 30, 2006, the Math Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia and the DVIRC sponsored a “**Business Higher Education K-12 STEM Summit**” This Summit was a seminal event that started the conversation around this all-important regional economic competitiveness issue — STEM Education.

A few months later, on June 27, 2006 the DVIRC and the U.S. Department of Labor, together with several supporting organizations, hosted a *STEM Forum --A Dialogue for Action* --which set the stage for future regional planning around this all-important issue. The **STEM Forum Proceedings**, which summarized the dialogue that took place, have been lauded as a national model for regional collaboration on a topic of national and even international interest. The **Forum Proceedings** are available [here](#) if you have not received a copy.

At this time, we are writing to provide you with an update on some of the activities that have been taking place since these two events.

- As a result of the June 2006 *STEM Forum*, several organizations have come together to develop a **Greater Philadelphia Regional Compact for STEM Education**, (“Compact”), a draft of which is available for your review [here](#). Each of the initial Compact partners has been pursuing its own important work while collaborating with the others in support of theirs.
- The NSF-funded **Math Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia** continues its vital data-based and research-driven agenda to improve student access to, and achievement in, advanced math and science courses, and to improve the quality, quantity, and diversity of the teacher workforce. (See www.mspgp.org.)
- The **Philadelphia Education Fund’s Philadelphia Math and Science Coalition**, with a focus on enhancing the quality of math and science teaching in Philadelphia’s public schools, has engaged senior representatives from major corporations and academic institutions to create work plans and budgets around its seven major goals.
- DVIRC and Delaware County Community College continue to expand the **Applied Engineering Technology** initiative to add additional secondary and post-secondary partners and drive toward a regional enrollment goal of 10,000 students within the next four years.
- **Select Greater Philadelphia and WHYY** continue to promote and communicate the benefits of living and working in Greater Philadelphia, providing leadership and support for multiple economic development/education partnerships.

- The **Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania** has recently completed its 5-year strategic plan marking a new phase of aggressive growth and performance for the region's leading economic development organization focused on starting and growing technology companies in the region. Please view the plan at www.sep.benfranklin.org/who/fyplan.pdf.

By the end of June 2007, representatives from these partnerships are planning to lay out a specific work plan and budget that will articulate what our region needs to do make Greater Philadelphia an international hotspot for STEM education. We will continue to communicate our progress and your comments and suggestions are welcome. Thank you again for your ongoing support and contributions.

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