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**Recap: STEM Collaborative Action Plan Working Forum  
December 9, 2006  
LAX Westin Hotel Los Angeles**

On December 9, 2006, the California Space Education and Workforce Institute (CSEWI), in cooperation with the California Space Authority (CSA) and a committed group of sixty-nine STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) stakeholders representing industry, the informal science community, the K-12 system, California Community College system, California State University and the University of California held its first scheduled working group forum to kick off the broad-based collaboration. CSEWI is facilitating the collaboration through a Department of Labor grant award to CSA under the WIRED (Workforce Innovation through Regional Economic Development) Initiative. The purpose of the collaboration is to develop a collaborative STEM Action Plan to increase the number and support the development of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students, graduates, teachers, professors and mentors (Kindergarten through University) within the California Innovation Corridor and the State of California, leveraging the resources and efforts not only of education and academia, but of industry and the informal science network.

The purpose of this first working forum was to have the participants break into one of three working groups determined by the Steering Committee in its October 5, 2006 meeting and begin the work of pulling together the plan\*. Those three groups are (and the notes are provided as separate attachments):

**Recruitment/Retention of STEM Students, Graduates, Teachers, Professors and Mentors**  
*(facilitated by Victoria Connor, Strategic Vitality LLC)*  
*(recorder: Christine Purcell, CSA)*

**STEM Academic Curriculum, Industry/Workforce Relevancy**  
*(facilitated by Dr. Diane Siri, Co-Executive Director ARCHES)*  
*(recorder: TBD – Michael Tomisello?)*

**Seamless STEM Transitioning Strategies, Elementary School to Workforce Entry**  
*(facilitated by Dennis Galligani, Co-Executive Director ARCHES)*  
*(recorder: Matt Everingham)*

To view Forum agenda and power point briefings by presenters, see  
[http://www.californiaspaceauthority.org/html/wired/061209\\_stemcap-forum.html](http://www.californiaspaceauthority.org/html/wired/061209_stemcap-forum.html)

STEMCAP working groups were formed to serve as recommending bodies to provide STEM strategy-related inputs to the STEMCAP Steering Committee. They are being developed to leverage the collective and institutional knowledge resident in California's diverse array of STEM stakeholders, public and private. Composition of the three current STEMCAP strategic working groups is characterized by cross-sector, cross-disciplinary, inter-segmental, public/private participation of informed STEM stakeholders from:

- industry/small business/the entrepreneurial community
- education and academia
- government
- the workforce development community
- the informal science community
- the nonprofit community

December 9th's group sessions were designed to:

- Determine goal statements for the three STEM strategic topics of interest
- Identify key elements of the strategic topics for proposed inclusion in the STEMCAP
- Emphasize a systems approach in addressing working group topics, providing cross-sector, integrated strategic input
- Develop suggested principles to use in evaluating programs, best and promising practices, pilots and demonstrations to illustrate STEM successes statewide
- Energize and inform the STEMCAP development process
- Seek ongoing STEMCAP working group commitment

To this end, each group was given a series of questions to answer to guide their work going forward:

1. Assuming that breakout topic is an appropriate priority for WIRED, how would this title be reworded as a goal statement to accurately reflect the focus of this area within the STEMCAP project?
2. What are the key components of this strategy?
3. What criteria, guidelines or principles could WIRED use in order to justify existing or emerging best practices and successful strategies?
4. What measures or outcomes could be used to evaluate success within this priority area?
5. How would we achieve these outcomes?
6. Assuming you/your organization remain willing to continue serving on this working group, what other individuals should be recruited before the next meeting to enhance and assure success of our efforts?

7. (Optional) What is the best way to disseminate information to key stakeholders for this strategy?

### ***Closing Session Next Steps***

#### **1. Next Steps**

- Ensure California STEM inventory is completed(CSEWI)
  - With industry
  - With informal science
  - With K-12
  - With higher education
- Solicit input from Forum invitees on key STEM stakeholders not yet engaged (CSEWI)
- Plan next STEM Collaboration session (Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2007)
  - Consider a high level industry/academic panel

\* To set the stage for the work, prior to the breakout sessions, presentations were made by Deborah Hirsh, the Executive Director of the California Space Education and Workforce Institute (CSEWI), Keith Thompson, the STEM Outreach Manager for the Department of Defense, Angela Diaz, Director, Strategic Communications and Development NASA Ames and Damon Castillo, the Executive Director of STEP. The synergy and receptivity of the participants, who had all given up a Saturday to be part of this unprecedented collaborative effort, were outstanding. There was particular resonance to the presentation provided by DoD's Keith Thompson. Many K-12 educators were interested in the DoD sponsored curriculum (if it could be specifically mapped to the California State Standards), and the teacher professional development provided by DoD for this curriculum. The commitment to work together and to develop partnerships with DoD, where appropriate, was stated.