

Report of Concurrent Session #7:
K-18 Articulated Pathways and Partnerships

1. What are the most promising strategies and practices we currently see?

Most Promising Strategies: The most promising strategy discussed was creating collaborations and/or specific partnerships at the local level between the CSU campus, community college(s) and school districts so that the segments can coordinate and mutually support their work to create a seamless pathway for K-16 students to successfully study of math and science. This included building on existing P-16 Councils where they exist. Such a collaborative approach allows the creation of a comprehensive program that recruits high school and community college students and provides curriculum enrichment, internships, summer science camps and an understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to complete the pathway to becoming a math or science teacher.

2. What are the critical success factors for each of these?

Critical Success Factors: As the local partnerships are created between the educational segments they need to build on the following essential elements: shared vision and goals, effective communication, and respect for differences in organizational culture between the partners. Special effort must also be made to fully involve K-12 classroom teachers since strengthening classroom teaching and curriculum are key factors in increasing the numbers of students studying math and science. It was also agreed that community colleges are an essential partner since they are a great places to recruit students from underrepresented groups and because so many of their students matriculate to 4 year colleges. A final factor discussed was the need to learn from and build on existing successful programs currently in our segments such as community college MESA, the CSU EAP program, UC academic development programs and K-12 AVID.

3. What immediate steps can be taken to grow the success of these strategies?

Immediate Steps: Learn about and take advantage of any existing regional partnerships or collaboratives that exist in your local area. (Check the ARCHES-CAL.org website for one list of regional collaboratives). Have the local segmental educational leaders invite local business and community organizations together to explore options for creating a collaborative around this work. Find funds to support start up planning; options mentioned included the CSU's Math Science Teacher Initiative, NCLB Title II through CDE, regional start up grants from ARCHES, Community College Career Technical Education Program Grants administered by the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges.