



TOPIC: Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the Final Report of the Governor's STEM Task Force.

COMMITTEE: Education Policy

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: September 16, 2010

SUMMARY: On June 3, 2009, Chancellor Brit Kirwan and June Streckfus (Executive Director of Maryland Business Round Table for Education) reported to the Board of Regents Committee on Education Policy on the final recommendations of the Governor's STEM Task Force. This is an update on the status of the recommendations and activities to date.

Major activities include:

1. *College readiness and alignment:* The College Success Task Force, charged by the P-20 Council with addressing the first recommendation of the STEM Task Force, has completed its work and made recommendations related to college readiness and alignment, endorsing the Common Core Standards, and the anticipated development of a reliable and validated assessment instrument to assess college readiness. USM, along with all the community colleges and independent colleges, signed a letter of commitment to be part of a consortium (led by the national educational non-profit, Achieve) to develop the assessment, and Maryland is one of the governing states in that consortium.
2. *Triple the number of STEM teachers:* Each USM institution has developed plans to increase its STEM teacher pipeline. From 2006-2008, the USM produced around 120 STEM teachers per year against a need of just over 500 new STEM teachers per year. (see attached). The State of Maryland was recently awarded one of the Race to the Top grants, and that proposal included funding for elements of the STEM Task Force report, including increasing the teacher pipeline. As part of the USM strategic planning process, USM will be collecting data on STEM majors and STEM teachers. The Task Force Report also called for enhancing the STEM preparation for elementary school teachers as part of undergraduate general education reform initiatives.
3. *Professional Development for teachers:* We are anticipating increased opportunities to engage in the professional development of teachers, under the auspices of the RTTT funding. NSF just announced that USM has been awarded a new grant for Climate Change Education which will contribute to this goal, as well.
4. *STEM Internships:* Partners to implement this recommendation include GWIB, MHEC and MBRT.
5. *Increase the number of STEM graduates:* Tracking STEM graduates is part of the USM strategic planning process. In 2008, the USM produced 4,400 STEM majors, which directly met Maryland's STEM workforce needs. The number of graduates has remained relatively constant for the past several years.
6. *Boost Maryland's Competitiveness:* Recommendations from the USM Presidential Task Force on Research and Economic Competitiveness, which informed the Governor's STEM Task Force, will be part of the USM 2020 strategic planning process.
7. *STEM Innovation STEM Network:* In 2010, MBRT secured initial investments from

corporate and government funders to establish needed systems and services to be delivered by STEM Net. MBRT received a planning grant from ATT and Citi and a \$100,000 in-kind grant from IBM. The first component of STEM net is the STEM Teachers' Hub that will bring information, resources and federal, higher education and industry expertise to strengthen K-12 STEM teachers and learning. Teacher focus groups and an online survey were conducted to determine teacher need. The summary findings will be released in October 2010.

ALTERNATIVE(S): This is an information item only.

FISCAL IMPACT: This is an information item only.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Received as information. DATE: September 16, 2010

BOARD ACTION: DATE:

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