

The **Linking Leaders for Systemic Improvement Program** (Linking Leaders) was established in 1996 by NASA in collaboration with NASSMC. This partnership provided the ideal vehicle to support the separate and diverse reform efforts of individual state coalitions as a strategy for systemic change. Linking Leaders promotes coalition-building work in the states, with the specific goals to:

- To provide resources and opportunities for state-level leadership groups to collaborate with NASA and its affiliates to align NASA resources with the state's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education agenda and to build stronger links between NASA and the state's business, education, and public policy communities; and
- To build the commitment to establish and strengthen a broad-based coalition to address the state's STEM needs over the long-term.

Linking Leaders has revealed and underscored the complementary agendas, the overlapping constituencies, and the power of a coalition-NASA-NASSMC partnership in catalyzing and focusing STEM education change

efforts at the state level. Linking Leaders activities and NASA collaboration are structured to accommodate the specific needs of a coalition at any stage in its development.

States selected for participation in Linking Leaders will be required to make a three-year commitment to the project. During that time, NASSMC will work one-on-one to provide technical assistance, consultant services, access to resources and networks, and in-state meeting support to assist in building or strengthening the state coalition. Linking Leaders participants are eligible to receive up to \$7,000 to be used during Year 3 for implementation of action plans to strengthen the state's infrastructure to support systemic STEM education reform. To date, 25 states have participated in the program.

Applications are solicited annually in March.

For more information: [www.nassmc.org/linkingleaders.html](http://www.nassmc.org/linkingleaders.html)