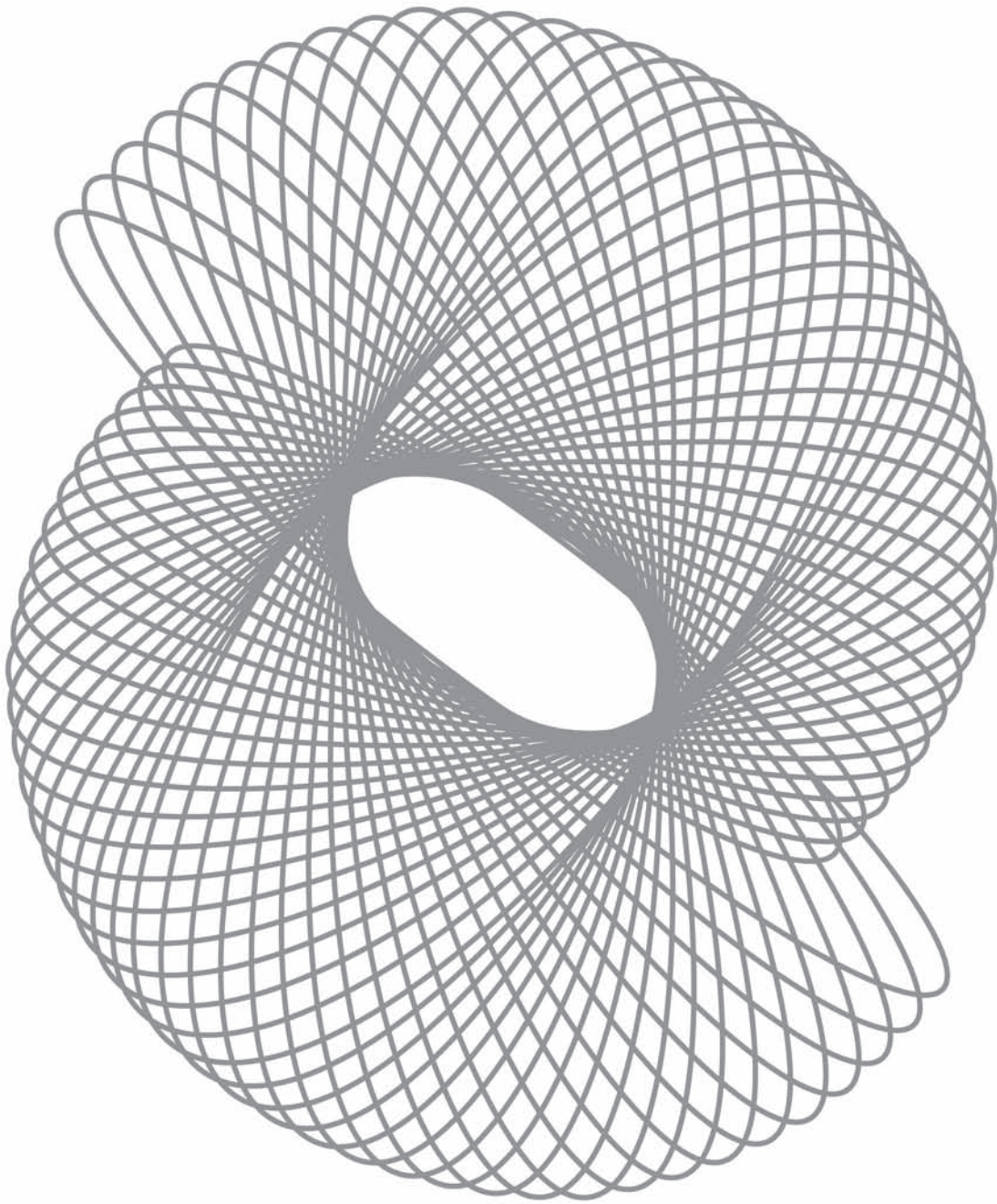


LINKING LEADERS

Community for Change:

Celebrating Ten Years



nasa

science

technology

engineering

mathematics

education

nassmc

LINKING LEADERS HISTORY

The Education Challenge

In the mid 1990's, worrisome gaps were identified in the mathematical, scientific, and technological literacy of the U.S. population. Issues such as the under-representation of women and minorities in technical fields, student performance on international assessment instruments, and student readiness for the workplace emerged as critical weaknesses of the U.S. system. In conjunction, state educational standards for almost every subject became a nationwide trend.

The Perfect Partnership

During this time, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Educational Office concluded that a monolithic, one-size-fits-all model was inappropriate and ineffective for supporting technical education across America. NASA's education leadership sought to support the source of a coherent voice for the states' improvement agendas.

The National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC) provided NASA with the perfect partnership opportunity. Initially formed in 1994, NASSMC grew out of a project sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Education Board of the National Research Council. The purpose of NASSMC was to bring state coalitions of business, education, and policy leaders under one national umbrella. NASSMC set out to develop strategies to strengthen existing coalitions while at the same time building new ones.

Linking Leaders Emerges

The Linking Leaders program was established 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. NASA's commitment to education is based on the support of each state's education vision. If the sectors of education, state government, and business share a collective vision, then NASA resources can be aligned to support it. On the other hand, if education, policy, and business leaders are all working hard but at cross-purposes to improve education, then the vector sum of their efforts may be zero.

Linking Leaders for Systemic Reform was launched in 1995 and the first Linking Leaders Workshop was held in Cleveland, Ohio in 1996. With the assistance of NASA funding, NASSMC has extended the Linking Leaders program to twenty-three states. In addition to building new coalitions, the program has evolved in recent years to offer specialized support and technical assistance to the older, more well-established coalitions. Now called Linking Leaders for Systemic Improvement, the program has changed the dynamics of NASA's interaction with the states and has led directly to the establishment of coalitions in four states where no organization existed prior to the NASSMC/NASA presence.

From Linking Leaders I in 1996 to Linking Leaders IX in 2004, the program has been conducted in the states of Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

NASSMC HISTORY

The National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC) is an umbrella organization for state coalitions of business, education, and public policy leaders united for the improvement of mathematics, science, and technology education (MSTE) for all students. NASSMC is a network of thirty-seven state coalitions and serves as the national advocate for its member organizations.

Vision and Goals

A non-profit association, NASSMC works state-by-state in pursuit of its vision that all U.S. students will have the necessary knowledge of, understanding of, and skills in mathematics, science, and technology, so they can be productive in their personal, work, and civic lives. The nation will have a competent and competitive workforce that continues to meet the challenges of the global economy. NASSMC's member coalitions work to bring coherence and added value to the separate efforts of many individuals and organizations. Coalitions pursue goals not achievable by any one organization or sector working alone. All Americans need and deserve to receive the best possible education in mathematics, science, and technology for their personal and civic lives.

To this end, NASSMC performs a variety of beneficial activities:

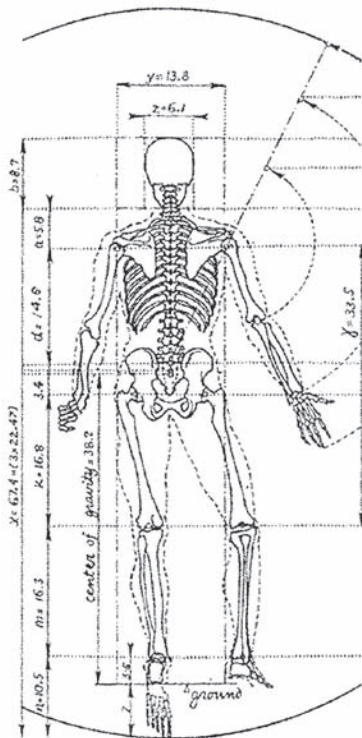
- Helping each coalition develop a state-specific strategy to improve mathematics, science, and technology education;
- Linking state coalition leaders to each other and to major national initiatives;
- Serving as the national ears and voice of its member coalitions;
- Providing a national forum for the discussion of critical issues relevant to continuous and systemic improvement of mathematics, science, and technology education; and
- Supporting timely dissemination of information relevant to the continuous and systemic improvement of mathematics, science, and technology education.

NASSMC's Development

NASSMC evolved from a 1989 project of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board of the National Research Council. For five years, the project focused on developing coalitions of state-level leaders committed to promoting adaptation and implementation of new state standards for school mathematics and later, science based upon national models. In 1994, directors of the state coalitions initiated by the project decided to establish NASSMC as a national nonprofit organization with headquarters in Washington, DC. At the direction of its Board, NASSMC adopted a larger mission of supporting its member coalitions in the promotion of systemic improvement of mathematics, science, and technology education for all students in grades K-16.

In pursuit of its mission, NASSMC has designed and executed projects testing processes and materials for strengthening the structure and programs of its member coalitions. In collaboration with the Education Commission of the States and the NASA, it has developed a state-based model for working with business, education, and policy leaders to address continuous improvement in school mathematics, science, and technology. NASSMC also established the NASSMC Briefing Service, an Internet-based service providing leaders across the nation with concise and timely information about programs, research results, and public opinion relating to mathematics, science, and technology education.

In August of 2002, NASSMC moved its offices to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Building at 1840 Wilson Boulevard, in neighboring Arlington, Virginia. In this new location, NASSMC works in close proximity to the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education and with the programs and operations of NSTA. The organization continues, through the efforts of its member coalitions, to support comprehensive and coordinated change in mathematics, science, and technology education and to promote public awareness and understanding of the need for such change.



The Idaho Science, Mathematics, and Technology Coalition (ISMTC) exists because leaders in Idaho business, government, and education recognized the need to significantly reduce the number of Idaho high school graduates requiring remedial mathematics, science, and technology education in order to enter the workforce or post-secondary education. These leaders also understand that collectively they can address this need much more effectively than they can individually.

The coalition was originally formed to provide a venue for businesses and professionals (scientist, mathematicians, and engineers) to work with educators in efforts to improve student achievement in mathematics.

ISMTC is motivated by the growing awareness of the need for increased student in achievement in science, mathematics, and technology education. Recent strategy plans by the Governor's Science and Technology Council and Workforce Development Council highlight this need and provide additional support for ISMTC's efforts.



VITAL STATISTICS

Linking Leaders Class
2002

Coalition Milestones
Founded - 1992

Website URL
www.ismtc.org

FEATURE STORY: *IT JUST TAKES ONE...*

In February of 2004, at a follow-up meeting to the 2002 Linking Leaders meeting, the Idaho math/science coalition was reorganized and renamed. J. Patrick White became the new Executive Director and led the one-day event.

There were approximately forty people in attendance, but only two had played an active role in the organization prior to that date. The coalition lacked a formal structure, and Executive Director White was hoping to leave the meeting with an agreement from two or three people to serve on the newly-named organization's board of directors.

The last item of business was selection of the initial directors, and Executive Director White was worried that he would have to call on the two people who had

supported the organization in the past to constitute a board. The room was quiet for a minute and no one raised their hand when he asked for volunteers.

Executive Director White started to think that there really wasn't much interest in the coalition - when one hand finally went up. As he started to write down the name and contact information for this first volunteer, several other people approached the podium.

Pretty soon Executive Director White had to get help to record all of the names.

Within fifteen minutes the group had created a twelve-member board of directors with representation from the business, government, and education sectors.

COALITION RESULTS



In May of 2004, ISMTC teamed with Senator Mike Crapo to co-host a conference that attracted over 130 teachers and administrators from across the state.

The conference provided these educators with increased knowledge of and access to federal, state, and local resources supporting K-12 efforts to improve teaching quality and to increase student achievement in science, mathematics, and technology.

Presenters at the conference included:

- Senator Mike Crapo
- Marilyn Howard, Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Pat White, Executive Director of ISMTC
- Representatives from NASA
- Representatives from two of Idaho's largest businesses
- Representatives from the Office of the Governor
- Representatives from the Idaho Department of Labor/Commerce
- Representatives from the University of Idaho
- Representatives from other federal agencies

FUTURE GOALS

ISMTC has identified two key goals for the years ahead:

- 1) To increase the number of Idaho students participating in classes that are designed to integrate mathematics, science, and technology content in work-based applications. The vision is that over a period of five to seven years, every high school in Idaho would institute at least one class where students devoted an entire school year to a project (or projects) centered on a work-based, community-based need or a scientific research endeavor.
- 2) To increase the ISMTC's influence on state policy related to science, mathematics, and/or technology education.

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**Idaho
Science
Mathematics
and
Technology
Coalition**

LESSONS LEARNED

At the NASSMC annual meeting, ISMTC's Executive Director was able to exchange information with another state director that led to the development of new organizational bylaws. ISMTC also received advice on transitioning ISMTC to a 501(c)(3) organization.



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