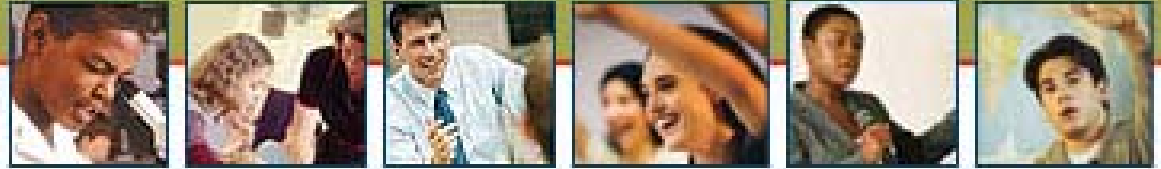




STATE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE



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WICHE Commission Meeting November 5-6, 2007

Terese Rainwater | Program Director

State Scholars Initiative

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

The State Scholars Network

SSI STATES



- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Connecticut
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

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State Scholars: Year 3

- ★ Host National Summit
- ★ Collect Data
- ★ Disseminate Results at National/State Conferences
- ★ Continue Technical Assistance, Oversight, and Monitoring
- ★ Support Implementation of ACG Program
- ★ Develop and Disseminate Communication Items

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National Summit on Academic Rigor and Relevance

- ★ April 29-30, 2008, in Boston, Massachusetts
- ★ Dual Purpose:
 1. Examine efforts to increase academic rigor and to improve academic relevance in high school
 2. Define the role and effectiveness of the business community in driving national education reform conversations

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Summit: Six Outcomes

1. Guidance toward a strategic vision for sustainability
2. Expansion to a nationally representative program
3. Reinforce the:
 - value of a rigorous course of study
 - value of business involvement
 - definition of the relationship between rigorous coursework and student competency

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Summit: Six Outcomes

4. Emphasize importance of STEM fields
5. Emphasize community colleges connection
6. Emphasize the benefits of offering a rigorous sequence of career and technical education courses in a career cluster

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Summit: State Teams

State teams will include:

- ★ Business leader (chair)
- ★ State policy leader
- ★ Principal/school district superintendent
- ★ Foundation leader
- ★ SSI State Director (if from an SSI state) OR
- ★ CTE State Director or additional business leader (if not from an SSI state)
- ★ WICHE Commissioners

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State Scholars Data

★ Three types of data:

1. Qualitative
2. Student Level
3. Perception

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State Scholars Data

Qualitative Data Findings:

1. Business Partnership Characteristics
 - "An estimated 540 businesses and related organizations have been involved in the 22 active SSI states."
 - 74% were private sector
 - 14% were public agencies
 - 5% were civic and fraternal organizations
 - 7% were nonprofit concerns

*Goal One of the State Scholars Initiative October 1, 2006
- September 30, 2007, October 2007*

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State Scholars Data

Qualitative Data Findings:

2. Connection to Education Reform

- "All of the state-level partnerships that reported on their relationships with other education reform initiatives described a connection to at least one other such effort." *Goal One of the State Scholars Initiative October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007, October 2007*

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State Scholars Data

Qualitative Data Findings:

3. Successful Business Education Partnerships

- "The experiences of the 22 active SSI states offer a rich set of case studies to enhance our understanding of the factors associated with successful business-education partnerships, but also how such partnerships may be used to enhance educational rigor and specifically influence student course-taking." *Goal One of the State Scholars Initiative October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007, October 2007*

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State Scholars Data

State Level Data Findings:

1. Building the infrastructure
 - "The State Scholars Initiative is positively creating an environment that allows states and districts to "figure out" the difficult data use questions that are left unanswered by other programs." *Year Two Evaluation Report: State Scholars Initiative, October 2007*

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State Scholars Data

State Level Data Findings:

2. Students are enrolling in the specific courses required in the State Scholars Initiative Core Course of Study
 - Change appears to be occurring particularly in which students are being encouraged to take mathematics

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State Scholars Data

Perception Data Findings:

1. Perceived Importance of Rigorous Coursework
 - "Students, parents, teachers, and guidance counselors responding to the pilot survey all perceived rigorous high school courses to be important to a well-paying job after high school and to going to postsecondary education." *Year Two Evaluation Report: State Scholars Initiative, October 2007*

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State Scholars Data

Perception Data Findings:

2. Business Community Volunteer Support
 - "Even though business people believe rigorous high school course taking to be important, a smaller percentage responded that they follow through by actively encouraging students to take rigorous courses." *Year Two Evaluation Report: State Scholars Initiative, October 2007*

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State Scholars Data

Perception Data Findings:

3. Student Perceptions

- "Students responded on the pilot survey that parents were the biggest influence as students decide to take rigorous high school courses."

Year Two Evaluation Report: State Scholars Initiative, October 2007

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Communication items

- ★ Newsletters
- ★ 2007 Year in Review
- ★ Foreign Language Brief
- ★ Informational DVD
- ★ Meta-Analysis on High School Rigor and Relevance

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On the horizon...

- ★ Probable No-Cost Extension through February 2009

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The work reported herein was supported under State Scholars Initiative, PR/Award Number **V051U050006** as administered by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education or the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.