

*Competitive Action Plan for Orange County –  
Results of the Innovation in Education Summit – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

## Overview

The Competitive Action Plan for Orange County was developed as a result of the Innovation in Education Summit hosted by Project Tomorrow and the AeA-Orange County Council. Over 160 community stakeholders participated in this half-day event at the Westin South Coast Hotel on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

This document summarizes the strategies and recommendations made by the participants, panelists and speakers. Source materials used to develop this Competitive Action Plan include: the summary notes from the “Final Report Out”, facilitator worksheets used during the brainstorming session, “Innovation in Education” worksheets submitted by participants, and audio from the panelists and speakers.

Project Tomorrow will convene four working groups to continue the conversations and identify priorities for moving forward during the 2006-07 school year. Each working group will focus on the specific strategies and recommendations outlined in this document. The working groups include:

**Business/Education** will focus on strategies to further align educational outcomes and economic development requirements as outlined in strategies 1, 2, 3 and 8.

**Professional Development** will focus on strategies to address the needs of pre-service and veteran teachers (strategy 6).

**Assessment** will identify “best-practice” embedded and high-stakes assessments as outlined in strategy 5.

**Technology** will work on a global vision for technology, including a web-based clearing house as outlined in strategies 4 and 7.

Working group meetings will be convened bi-monthly beginning in June 2006. In Spring 2007, Project Tomorrow and AeA-Orange County Council will convene a follow-up summit to review our progress and discuss next steps.

If you are interested in volunteering for a working group or would like additional information, contact Laurie Smith, OC Programs Director at [lsmith@tomorrow.org](mailto:lsmith@tomorrow.org) or 949 609-4660 ext 17.

**What does innovation in education mean to you?  
(Sampling of responses)**

“Innovation in education means teaching students how to learn, thus giving them the necessary tools to become lifelong learners.”

*Deegie Phelps, teacher, Springbrook Elementary*

“Providing students with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to insure future success in jobs that may not have yet been created.”

*Greg Rankin, principal, Century High School*

“Inspiring teachers to inspire students to learn. Using technology to customize education so that each child can learn the way they do best.”

*Mike Lefkowitz, The SEMEL Group*

“Innovation in education means thinking outside the box. Preparing students to work in a competitive technology based learning environment. Emphasizing critical thinking, problem solving, communication, accurate information and students becoming self-directed learners.”

*Barbara Moore, Instructional Technology Specialist, Fullerton School District.*

“Innovation is using cutting edge technologies to enhance and drive educational creativity and motivation to develop a self-directed learner/leader.”

*Todd Salesky, teacher, Global IT Academy, Brea Olinda High*

“Innovation is continued change. It’s a dream of Utopia that people work towards to make a reality.”

*Tara Saraye, principal, McPherson Magnet*

“Innovation in education means creating, strategizing, implementing new curriculum that will enable students to be efficient in “life’s skills” and subject matter needs to embrace the challenges graduates will face once they’re out in the real world.”

*Josephine Ryan, Regional Product Sales Manager – So. Ca., Washington Mutual*

“As an educator, it means the time and freedom to change the face of what learning looks like in the classroom.”

*Michelle Zientek, teacher, McPherson Magnet*

“Consistently striving to find better ways and methods of educating children to meet future demands in the workforce. Creating a dynamic educational environment where both educators and students are challenged to excel.”

*Margarita Miranda, Fluor Foundation*

**What does innovation in education mean to you?  
(Sampling of responses)**

“The willingness to try new things.”

*Maureen Koenig, teacher, Yorba Linda Middle School*

“Innovation in education means bringing creativity to classrooms, not only in the content taught, but also in the ways it’s taught. It means using a limited budget wisely and preparing students for real world applications, mainly by hands-on activities. It also applies to motivation and encouragement inside and outside of the classroom and the ability to keep up with today’s technology.

*High School Senior, Trabuco Hills High School*

“Being ahead of what others are doing and ahead of what others are thinking.”

*Alan Gersten, Century High School*

“Innovation in education means a realization that true learning can only take place through an integration of academic core subjects and career technical education.”

*Roger Musgrove, Trabuco Hills High School*

“Innovation in education means taking risks, based on reliable research, to make a change to move forward and to improve the education of all children.. to use and be knowledgeable in all resources to make it happen.”

*Jeanne Bentley, teacher, McPherson Magnet*

“Pursuing the best way to help students learn using the most current research and resources to reach a well-defined vision. The vision must be defined by the job market and higher education. The starting point: student needs, interests, capabilities, research and community. What works? Original creativity and willingness to experiment and take action.”

*Dan Sullivan, principal, Trabuco Hills High School*

“The willingness, desire and resources to make changes that benefit students and improve student achievement.”

*Kurt Walker, teacher, THHS, Saddleback Valley*

“The integration of technology into project based learning through out the curriculum.”

*Cameron McCune, Superintendent, Fullerton School District*

**What can you do to improve science, math and technology education to insure that Orange County can retain its economic competitiveness?**

**Strategy #1: Engage students in learning science and math by making it “cool” and relevant.**

*Recommendations:*

- Engage students in learning science and math through project-based curriculum that addresses contemporary issues and integrates 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
- Integrate real life experiences
- Introduce students and teachers to experts for on-going dialogue.
- Illustrate the connection between the curriculum and careers
- Provide career awareness, internships and job shadow opportunities to students.
- Incorporate required industry skill sets into class projects (i.e. communication skills, innovation, creativity, inquiry)
- Encourage more hands-on activities and ROP type classes.
- Provide age-appropriate after-school programs in science, math, or technology.
- Take a critical look at integrating the UCLA IMMEX program into the curriculum.

**Strategy #2: Develop a local talent pipeline by providing incentives for students to pursue post-secondary education and careers in Orange County.**

*Recommendations:*

- Provide incentives for students to study and work in Orange County.  
"Don't let the orange fall far from the tree"

**Strategy #3: Build meaningful relationships between educators and local business leaders to support student learning.**

*Recommendations:*

- Identify partnerships & resources
- Host business roundtables or focus groups to help develop a common vision.
- Create consensus amongst stakeholders on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills educational outcomes.
- Consider using MILE assessment tool from the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Skills to establish baseline data.
- Provide opportunities and time for stakeholders to plan, share, and connect.
- Create district-level innovation advisory committees comprised of educators, business people and community members.
- Develop an educator exchange program where teachers have the opportunity to learn more about business.
- Provide opportunities for business professionals to supervise student labs or teach courses.

**What can you do to improve science, math and technology education to insure that Orange County can retain its economic competitiveness?**

**Strategy #4: Develop a global vision for technology usage in our schools to insure that all students, parents and teachers have access to long-term, sustained access.**

*Recommendations:*

- Evaluate use of ICT literacy maps

**Strategy #5: Provide real-time assessment tools that will help foster the desire to learn and succeed.**

*Recommendations:*

- Advocate for revisions to state level assessment tools.
- Develop in-house assessment tools.
- Consider NAPA high assessment model

**Strategy #6: Redefine teaching and learning to promote inspiration in teachers and students.**

*Recommendations:*

- Provide opportunities for educators and business professionals to discuss the needs and solutions for effectively preparing students to enter workforce.
- Educate pre-service teachers about what successful business partnerships look like (skills, career days).
- Provide scholarships to teachers who are pursuing advanced degrees in science and math.
- Give educators time and permission to go and explore new programs/projects.
- Provide opportunities for teachers to learn more about the business environment and the importance of math and science through summer programs, internships, site visits or “corporate-sponsored sabbaticals.”
- Provide corporate-sponsor science/math chairs at local high schools.
- Develop teacher leader cadre
- Recognize and celebrate teachers who do an exceptional job.

**Strategy #7: Provide web-based clearinghouse to highlight local math and science resources.**

*Recommendations:*

- Review current resource directories at [www.tomorrow.org](http://www.tomorrow.org) and <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and determine additional requirements.

**Strategy #8: Increase public awareness about the importance of investing in science, math and technology to develop 21st Century skills**

*Recommendations:*

- Encourage local businesses make education "their business."
- Identify workforce skills that are required by Orange County businesses.

**What can you do to improve science, math and technology education to insure that Orange County can retain its economic competitiveness?**

- Collaborate with community groups on week-long 21<sup>st</sup> century skills strategies countywide.

**Strategy #9: Get involved today!**

*Recommendations:*

- Volunteer to work at a school, on an advisory committee or working group.
- Provide money to purchase materials, build lab facilities or extend the learning day
- Advocate for enhanced assessments or additional resources to support math, science and technology.

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**2006 Participants**

Ruth Abatzoglu	Century High School
Orquidia Acosta-Hathaway	Westminster School District
Sue Albano	Fullerton School District
Tony Anderson	Fullerton School District
Katie Baker	Orange County United Way
Jeanne Bentley	McPherson Magnet School
Peg Benzie	Crescent Intermediate School
Alicia Berhow	Field Representative for Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez
Katherine Bihr, Ed.D.	Tiger Woods Learning Center
Keith Brush	Future Scientists and Engineers of America
Dr. Linda Caillet	Fullerton School District
Shannon Cheatley	Kinoshita Elementary School, Principal
Steve Chesser	The Boeing Company
Tiffany Chieng	Brea Olinda High School
Amy Cohen	Project Tomorrow
Judi Conroy	UC Irvine
Aubrie Cook	Brea Olinda High School
Dan Copple	Magnolia School District
Andrew Coulson	MIND Institute
Robert Craven	Orange County Department of Education
Kristen Crellin	Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union
Kevin Daly	MaxXess, CEO
Kit Dameron	Fullerton School District
Lynn Daucher	Assemblywoman, 72nd District
Mayra Davalos	Century High School
Marcy Encinas	Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Janet English	KOCE
Art Enriquez	Century High School
Guy Erskine	Paularino Elementary School
Veronica Escobedo	Girls Incorporated
Julie Evans	Project Tomorrow
Katie Fliegler	Trabuco Hills High School
Gretchen Francisco	Fullerton School District
Ray Gatfield	Saddleback Valley Unified School District
Allan Gersten	Century High School
Steve Glycer	Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Karol Gottfredson	UC Irvine
Dan Graham	Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate School
Karen Green	Fullerton School District
Michael Guereña	Orange County Department of Education
Bill Habermehl	Orange County Department of Education Superintendent of Schools
Tom Hamilton	Trabuco Hills High School
Megan Hartman	Project Tomorrow
Tom Harvey	Brea Olinda Unified School District
Dr. Edward Hernandez, Jr.	Chancellor, Rancho Santiago Community College District
Jerry Hewitt	The Boeing Company

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Don Isbell	Century High School
Tim Jemal	American Electronics Association
JoeAnna Jenkins	Discovery Science Center
Naomi Jue	Acacia Elementary School
Ken Kay	Partnership on 21st Century Skills
Gigi Kelley	Fullerton School District
Sister Maria Kelley	St. Bonaventure School
Amin Khalifa	Apria Healthcare
Cheryl Kiddoo	Project Tomorrow
Kathi Koch	Apple Computer
Maureen Koenig	Yorba Linda Middle School
Kay Krausman	Educational Consultant
Dan Krawitz	Science Education Center of California
Kathleen Kustura	St. Bonaventure School
Paul LaBlanc	Trabuco Hills High School
Stephen LaCount	LaCount Law
Sandy Lapham	Orange County Department of Education
Dan Lau	Consultant - OCDE
Cheryl Lee	Apple Computer
Jeff Lee	Arthur F. Corey
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Nancy Lurwig	The Boeing Company
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Christine McCauley	Edwards Lifesciences
Yolanda McComb	Fullerton School District
Alisa McCord	Orange County Department of Education
Dr. Cameron McCune	Fullerton School District
Ross McElfresh	Century High School
Lainie McGann	Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Kathy McGoldrick	Magnolia School District
Abbie Mendoza	Brea Olinda High School
Dan Methé	Yorba Linda Middle School
Margarita Miranda	Fluor Corporation
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Martha Montoya	Los Kitos
Barbara Moore	Fullerton School District
Ryan Morrow	Trabuco Hills High School
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Jonathan Nguy	Brea Olinda High School

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Erica Perez	The Orange County Register
Deegie Phelps	Springbrook Elementary School
Marsh Phelps	
Lynne Porter	North Orange County ROP
Mike Pressman	UCI MBA Student
Greg Rankin	Century High School
Kalim Rayburn	Tiger Woods Learning Center
Kelly Ren	Kiddie Techie Enrichment
Michelle Rendel	Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union
Josephine Ryan	Washington Mutual
Todd Salesky	Brea Olinda High School
Isaac Sandavol	Century High School
John Sanders	Paularino Elementary School
Lucy Santana	Girls Incorporated
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