

Indiana's Future is about looking forward and moving ahead—seeing the possibilities of tomorrow and preparing for them today

Indiana's Future: Equity, Engagement & Education for Economic Success, CELL's 2007 conference, focused on transforming education throughout Indiana to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills for postsecondary education and success in the 21st-century global economy. Featuring more than 70 breakout sessions and renowned keynote presenters, the conference addressed some of today's most pressing educational issues by providing innovative information and fostering the conversations and collaborations necessary to improve student achievement and global competitiveness. Participants interacted with national and local experts to create education goals and discover economic strategies that will improve the future of Indiana for all its citizens.

"This conference brings people together who don't normally have a chance to interact around the topic of the importance of education to our communities and to our economy going forward."

— Anne Shane, Vice President, BioCrossroads

Connecting leaders to build the capacity for change

Since the first *Indiana's Future* conference in 2005, several schools and communities have begun to transform education locally as a result of information gained and connections made through the event. The 2007 conference highlighted the progress of several communities from across the state including Bloomington, Columbus, Indianapolis, and Rochester, which all are implementing innovative new school models.

Several breakout sessions brought state leaders together to discuss education and economic issues of importance to Indiana. Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed led a panel of legislative and business leaders to discuss equity for Indiana's students. Other panels included school, community and business leaders responding to the recommendations made by the keynote presenters.

Knowing that the most important voice for changing education is that of the children who are affected, students presented several sessions that addressed challenges for Latino youth, experiences in unique school models, and beliefs about schooling and education. Other conference breakout sessions provided information on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, cultural awareness and instructional strategies leading to student success.

"Bringing all of these people together in one place to have conversations, discussions—to be able to listen and to learn—is absolutely essential to getting Indiana to where we need to be."

— Dr. Suellen Reed, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction



Indiana must lead the way or be left behind

Life in the 21st century is unlike any other time in history and requires innovative adaptations and advancements to an educational system designed for a previous era. Keynote presenter Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, outlined the changing world and the monumental shifts required of Indiana's schools and communities to operate in the new global economy. With diversity increasing throughout the world, technology advancing at an exponential rate, and globalization affecting every aspect of life, educational systems must not only react, but be able to respond quickly and aggressively. Levine emphasized the importance of supporting teachers by attracting the best and brightest to the profession, providing exceptional training to current and future teachers, and pairing the most capable educators with the students who need them most.



Arthur Levine



Marc Tucker

Marc Tucker, president and chief executive officer of the National Center on Education and the Economy, presented a series of recommendations to keep the United States competitive by producing students who are among the most creative and innovative in the world. As outlined in *Tough Choices or Tough Times: The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce*, Tucker recommended sending prepared students to college at age 16, increasing access to early childhood education and revising the public education structure to support school choice. According to Tucker, changes must take place at the legislative level, inside our current education systems and within our economic development authorities to ensure Indiana's students are among the world's best.

Despite living in one of the most advanced countries in the world, inequities still exist that are preventing students from achieving their full potential. Glenn Singleton, executive director of the Pacific Educational Group, noted that Indiana's black and brown students are predicted to be the lowest performing and that less than 40 percent are proficient in math by 10th grade. To correct problems such as these, Singleton helped the audience understand the impact of race on student and economic success. When society as a whole depends on the success of each individual student, schools and educators must provide all students with the best curriculum and instruction. Only then can the resource, access, opportunity, and expectation gaps be closed, so that society can see the immense potential of every child, regardless of the color of their skin.



Glenn Singleton



Beth Harry

Beth Harry, a professor of special education at the University of Miami, explored the topic of how culturally unresponsive education systems are leading to the labeling of students as disabled, which often limits their opportunities and masks true potential. Unknowingly, many schools are operating from a false sense of norms that apply middle class learning and behavioral norms to all students, regardless of whether or not every student has had the opportunity to reach those standards. Harry discussed ways to create educational systems that understand and accommodate the diverse needs and abilities of all children, so that every child receives the education necessary to excel.

"There is nothing more important than transforming our public education system to one that will help the students of today and the employees of tomorrow be better prepared to take advantage of the jobs that will be the future of Indiana."

— Dan Peterson, Vice President, Industry & Government Affairs, Cook Group Incorporated



November 2007

Conference Summary

Transforming Today's Schools for Tomorrow's World

Equity, Engagement & Education for Economic Success

Indiana's Future:

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN LEADERSHIP OF LEARNING



Today's students are tomorrow's workforce

We live in a time when the quality of our educational system directly impacts the economic development of our country and the prosperity of our lives. In a 21st-century global economy with competing countries and a rapidly changing world, the United States cannot afford to have students drop out of high school or graduate unprepared for postsecondary education and lifelong success. To create the support and fortitude necessary to advance education and develop the economy, schools and communities and businesses must unite to create the opportunities necessary for all children to learn and thrive—our future depends on it.

“If we as a state don't create an environment for a strong pipeline from education to the economy, we will fail.”

– Greg Porter, State Representative, Indiana House of Representatives

“We found the conference very inspiring and informative. We hope to use things from the conference to make changes.”

– 2007 conference participant

Creating new possibilities for the future of Indiana

In a dramatically changing world, it is difficult for any school to keep up. With rigorous, relevant education as the cornerstone of lifelong achievement, a significant transformation must occur to meet the needs of Indiana's children and today's society. To build and support educational systems that match the potential of the students they serve, the University of Indianapolis' Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) hosts the annual *Indiana's Future* conference. The conference brings together nearly 600 school, community, business, higher education, and policy leaders from across the state to build widespread support and to see the potential of Indiana in positive, powerful new ways. The conference is a unique opportunity for diverse stakeholders to work together around the common goal of making education and economic change a reality in Indiana's schools and communities.

To access resources from the 2007 *Indiana's Future* conference, visit cell.indy.edu

- 40 Indiana counties
- 50 school districts
- 25 higher education institutions
- 70 state and national businesses/organizations

Nearly 600 conference participants representing more than:

Conference Sponsors



Indiana's Future: Equity, Engagement & Education for Economic Success is hosted by the University of Indianapolis' Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning and is supported in part by Lilly Endowment Inc. and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

– Don Stinson, Superintendent, Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township

“To bring business people together, to bring educators together, and to set down and collaborate about common issues provides the best hope that we ever have had in bringing all stakeholders together to support improving learning for all children which will have a direct impact on our economy and the future of Indiana.”