

Beyond Kumbaya: Realizing the Full Potential of Workshops

Gail McClure, PhD

**Vice President Sponsored Projects
Arkansas Science & Technology Authority
Arkansas EPSCoR Program Director**

Engaging America's Talent Conference

- Conference overview
- Outputs
- Anticipated “Outcomes” from these Outputs
- Role of the white paper

Engaging America's Talent Conference

*Our workshop was driven by **three primary objectives:***

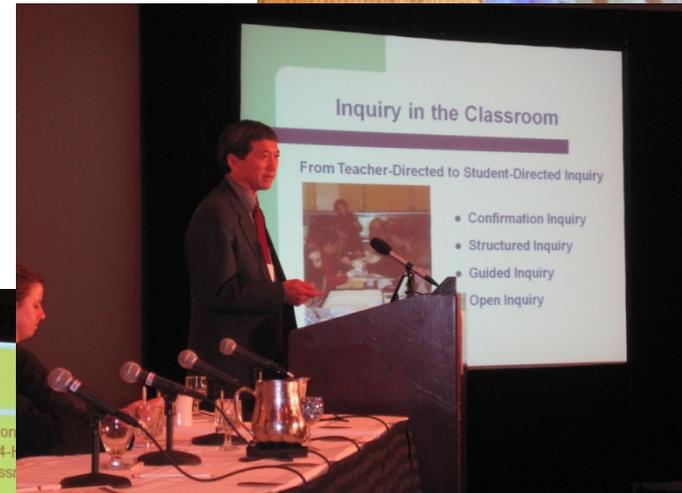
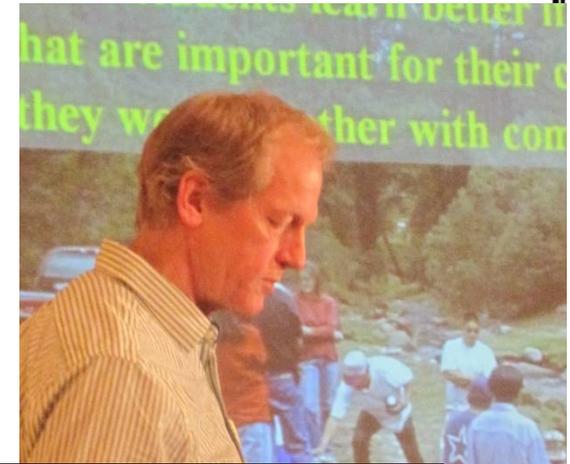
- To share information among NSF EPSCoR jurisdictions on both key elements and common characteristics of successful educational models;
- To explore areas for potential collaboration, replication, or modification for new education outreach programs in our jurisdictions;
- To learn about emerging opportunities across NSF directorates for supporting new educational models **(and alternative funding mechanisms).**

Engaging America's Talent

- Age-specific educational models (K-12) targeting particular age-level groups, school units, or programs outside normal school hours;
- Models that use teams or partnerships to promote direct interaction with university research groups; and
- Educational models that use technology tools or unique resources to support enhanced STEM curriculum, enhanced educational collaboration, or solve unique STEM educational issues.

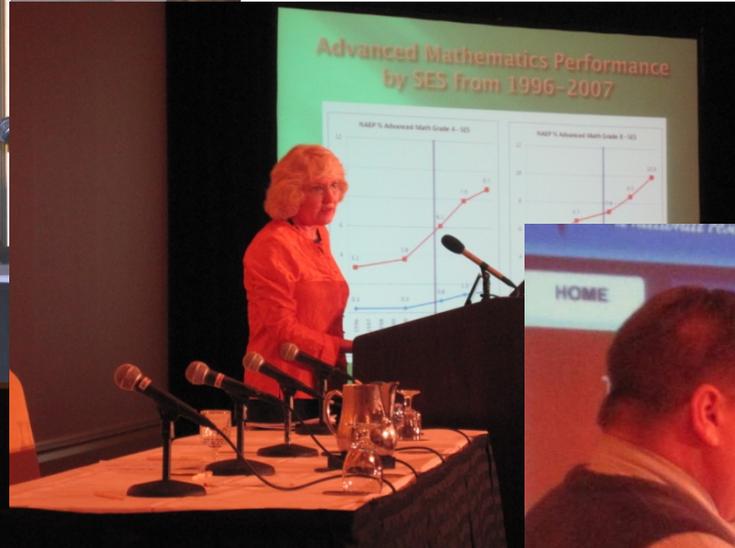
Presentations

27 best
practice
models

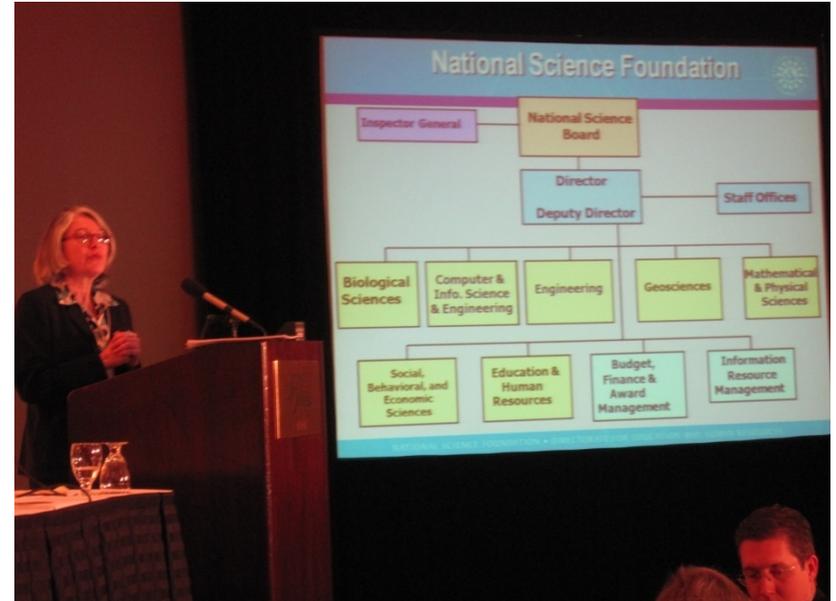


Keynotes

4 keynote presentations



NSF Panel



Discussions of funding opportunities for expanding educational outreach programs

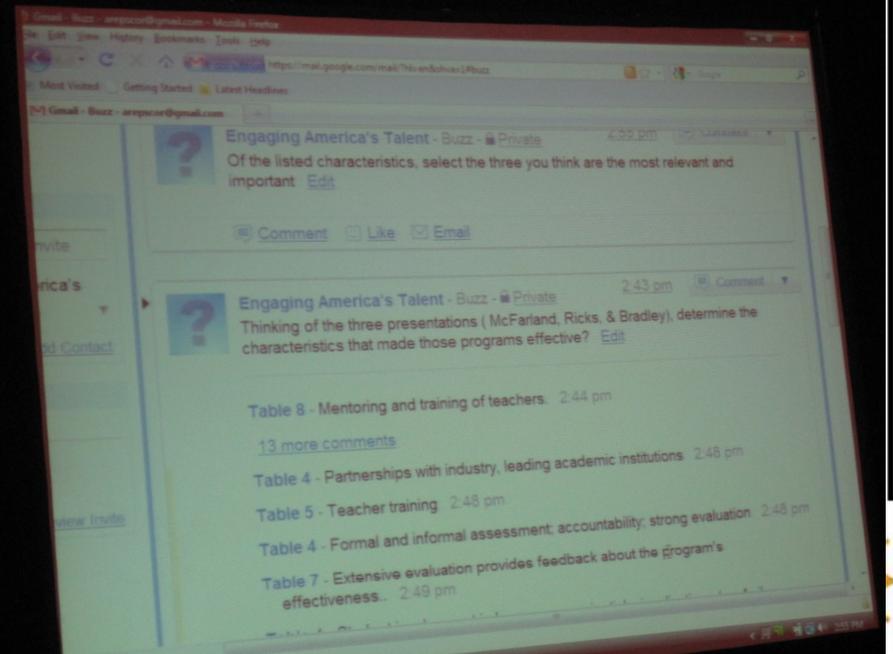
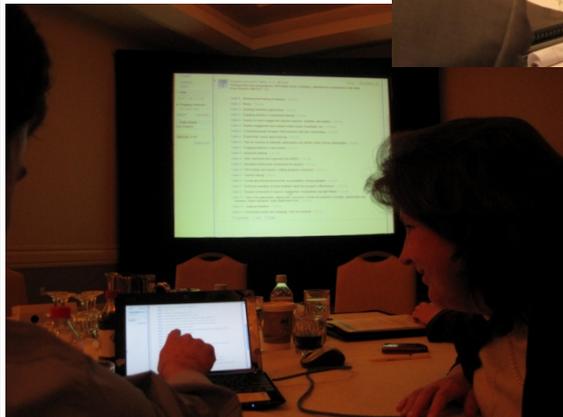
Google Buzz- Interaction



Table “teams” analyzed the sets of presentations for characteristics producing success



Google buzz used to share thoughts



Additional Networking (Food and Fun)



Networking
with team
tables



Poster session



Clinton Library networking session

Mary Good
welcome

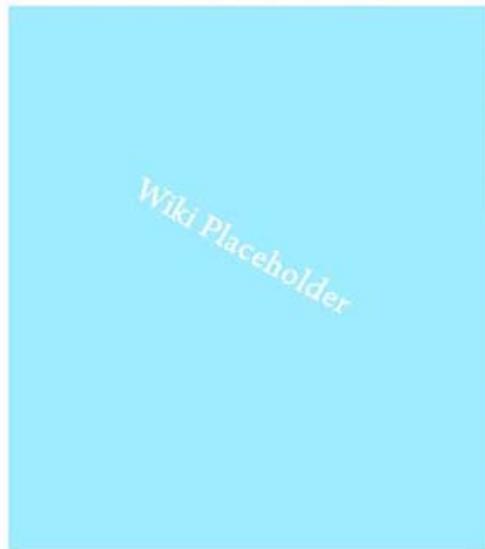


Engaging America's Talent Conference

OUTPUTS: (end of the conference is just the start of the work!)

- Conference Evaluation Results (Exit Surveys)
 - Post-survey year one
 - Post-survey year two
- Disseminate the information beyond the conference participants
 - Templates :educational models within each jurisdiction (**Alabama - link**)
 - PowerPoint presentations posted
 - Video clips of presentations posted
 - On-going digital dialogue started with the Buzz: “Website Wiki”
- Identification of funding opportunities for outreach
 - At the conference: NSF panel
 - Continued feedback from outreach community
 - Opportunities posted at Wiki
- **Organization of the “Outreach Directors”**
 - Initial dialogue
 - Follow-on meetings

Website update in progress



Conference Agenda

The Engaging America's Talent Conference took place at the Peabody Hotel from March 22nd to the 24th. During three days of intense discussion one theme emerged over and over from speakers and participants alike. If teachers want to get kids pumped up about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, they must throw out the traditional classroom model in favor of going high-tech, interactive, and literally "into the field."

The conference centered on the evaluation of three specific educational themes, topics ranging from the evaluation of age specific education models and integrating "real research" in student projects to the application of technology as a learning tool in and out of the classroom. [\[more\]](#)

OUTPUTS

- Wiki for digital dialogue
- Links to videos of each presentation
- Powerpoint presentations from conference
- Link to Alabama database of educational outreach programs & outreach directors

Engaging America's Talent Conference

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Continued networking of conference participants based on opportunities to share during the conference
- Outreach Directors –functioning as unit
- Continued “digital dialogue” using Wiki on educational models & successful programs –strengthen networking
- Complete clearinghouse of information on programs (website linked to Alabama’s educational programs database)

***Expanded or enhanced outreach efforts in the 29 jurisdictions**

“Beyond Kumbaya”

- White paper - **Follow-on for the conference**



(Not just a get-together to talk, pat each other on the back and sing campfire songs!)

- ❖ **Specific outputs in days & months following the event**
- ❖ **Specific anticipated outcomes evaluated in the years following the conference.**