

## STEM Symposium Reflections

### “How to Promote the Profile of the SC Graduate?”

March 23, 2016

- Have another symposium with video showcasing successful models of this in action
- Promote to State Department and districts teacher autonomy and creativity
- Work with teachers on regular basis
- More parent and family events
- Focus on the rural schools. I know it's easier to work with the school beside the business, but when your school is located in a forest, not a lot of businesses are willing to travel
- Have more parent centered learning opportunities. Get the churches involved! They know lots of folks!
- Incorporate the arts!
- Give practical ways to train students in STEM skills and soft skills
- Speak at Parent Workshops around the Lowcountry through school districts to let parents of students know and be informed in order to support their children, teachers, and schools
- Creating shared opportunities of what works in STEM, what doesn't ex. an “instructables.com” like website for STEM initiatives in the area

- Publicize the Profile on radio, TV, movie theaters
- Discuss the Profile with businesses (chambers and associations), schools (PTAs, boards, etc)
- Print Profiles for fast food tray sheets
- Advocate for the “Leader in Me”/Covey curriculum to be used in all elementary schools in Charleston region. Leadership students are best prepared to take a leadership role in their career pathway
- With the lack of evaluation procedures, it’s hard as an educator to grasp bringing STEM in the elementary classroom without feeling like specifics aren’t taught. I think example units or even projects may help with the overwhelming changes.
- Employers hold soft/skill/interviewing workshops at elementary, middle, and high school
- Find ways and demonstrate collaboration and teamwork with students and activities
- Ensure vocational items aren’t being replaced. There is a need for people with tactile skills and mechanical aptitude, as much as STEM career paths.
- Helping teachers and schools make connections with business partners
- Business community needs to be more aware of the Profile and points of engagement
- Promote environmental education in STEM. Nature awareness –air, water, land issues not just recycling

- Find out how business partners can help educators with Profile
- Help educators know who to contact for curriculum and relevant business partners and their contact info
- Continue to create opportunities for young people to demonstrate the skills and characteristics
- Engage parents around the changing work place
- Promote business internships for high school students
- Host workshops for parents to learn to support students
- Help host/sponsor community Tech/STEM/Code nights for students and parents to learn about skills needed and hands on activities-hold at local schools in each city
- Job interview and soft skill training with students and businesses
- Round table/networking opportunities for students to interact with business leaders-have business leaders as mentors during an event
- Initiate a local STEM Professional Day in Lowcountry
- Fun STEM events in community-invite kids and parents, get parents involved in the development and set-up
- Include YMCA, scouts, local churches
- More grants?
- Involve parents/guardians with decisions about educational changes or reforms
- Provide support to teachers and families
- Work with businesses to collaborate with schools-especially lower income

- Provide it to businesses and encourage them to collaborate with schools to help our children succeed
- Give practical suggestions for how teachers/schools can improve soft skills-cooperative learning, arts, project-based work
- Give teachers ideas of age-appropriate problems in local community that can be incorporated into classroom standards and problem-based learning
- Work at state level to have input on assessment-too much/too often not focused on whole child-profile
- Have STEM families adopt/mentor kids from other neighborhoods to join them for events and at events
- Attended 2016 STEM Festival-inspired to be here today!
- Do neighborhood events
- Would love to host @ BOWs meeting place @ 2615 Harvey Ave, suite 4, N. Chas, SC 29405-Joyce Nesmith-Title I Community (843) 697-4040
- Take STEM to where the people live
- Show profile with parents of students in all the tri-county schools.
- Get it in the newspaper-get Post & Courier onboard
- Encourage the Post & Courier to do an in-depth report on getting our residents trained for the new jobs in the Lowcountry
- Share this Profile with the business/community/other non-instructional places that could highlight the Profile-ex: rec league baseball has science, math & lots of softs skills

- Provide schools with STEM based camps/after school programs/opportunities available to students beyond the instructional day.-meaning a list of contacts/events/opportunities
- Distribute a STEM newsletter to schools highlighting and providing info to community schools about STEM based news in Charleston
- More teachers should have a chance to participate in a day like this!
- Have businesses come and be part of the educational process. May be happening but it needs to be more and in more schools of diverse populations
- More exposure to industry
- Industry diversity
- Operationalize the concept of “critical thinking.” Many talk about it but don’t have tangible plans.
- Promotion of logic, rhetoric, public speaking, debate, etc. in conjunction with STEM
- Science fair
- Student day at Aquarium
- Field trips to businesses
- Science Demo Day
- More awareness that it exists around the area and how it impacts our students
- Need to promote it more-give more education to the areas
- Work your plans at the school level as opposed to just being great ideas-but make sure your plan is practical

- Our “individualism” political value impacts schools and schooling. What can be done to help maintain children’s collaborative nature when the social circumstances mitigate against?
- Involve post-secondary educators when you talk about work class knowledge. They have expectation that may not be in-line with student expectations leaving K-12.
- Do more than just lip service about schools teaching soft skills. What program and policies are in place to do it?
- Media campaigns across the state
- Business partnerships with rural counties beyond the border of counties where the businesses operate to educate communities of the need for this type of graduate
- Profile needs to be exposed to people.
- Stress Chambers of Commerce “exposing” the Profile with all committees, not just work force development
- Continue to develop meaningful partnerships between elementary schools and industry through classroom support/collaboration
- Connect it to the parents and help students at a young age learn how to self-regulate and decide how they can make strong choices that build these soft skills
- Convince the legislators to “invest” time, effort, laws and funds
- Pay attention to how encouraging and supporting the Profile is very different from student to student. More importantly, encourage positive and secure

implementation of the growth of each student, recognizing that punishing a creative child for tardiness and making an OCD child uncomfortable by demanding creativity will not successfully help them become well-rounded. Teacher need time and support to address these needs appropriately.