



iLab Network Visioning Workshop Community Conclusions

Policy and Funding Community

Kurt Steinhaus

Overview

- Themes of Discussion
- Role for Remote Labs in Policy/Funding
- New Strategies & Practices Enabled by Remote Labs
- New Partnership Opportunities
- Top Priorities & Top Barriers
- Future Directions

Themes of Policy/Funding Discussion

- Three-legged funding/policy stool
 - Federal (7% funding), State, Local
- The policies that we adopt have to include incentives and accountability
- Supports that teachers and students will need are essential to success of remote labs in schools (e.g. Professional Development, Technical Assistance)
- Tension between measuring student success by achievement (test-scores) versus learning

Roles for Remote Labs in Policy/Funding

- America Competes is existing policy vehicle for remote labs
- Way of quantifying student achievement in technology and scientific inquiry with built-in evaluations in remote labs

New Strategies & Practices Enabled by Remote Labs

- Providing new resources for underserved urban and rural schools
- Providing access to data and experiments that cannot be obtained any other way
- Introducing new ways of teaching and learning through prototypes
- Extending summer internship experience at the National Labs throughout the academic year

New Partnership Opportunities

- Potential partners
 - Teacher preparation organizations, schools of education, colleges of liberal arts and sciences
 - Golden Apple Foundation
 - National Commission on Teaching and America's Future
 - National Governor's Association (NGA)
 - Council of Chief of State School Officers (CCSSO)
 - Professional Development Organizations
- Collaborations between undergraduate and high school students and teachers/faculty
- Informal and formal education settings
- Policy supported and disseminated through iNACOL

Top Priorities

- Answer the question: Why are remote labs important?
- Building ways to document student achievement/learning in remote lab initiatives
- Integrating remote lab strategies as part of federal, state, and local policies
- Successful and thorough professional development and support

Top Barriers

- Current policy and funding environment is not conducive to remote lab expansion
 - Underutilized opportunities exist
- Teachers' knowledge and skill level – needing to provide constant support
- Ability to measure critical thinking and scientific inquiry skills
- Remote labs are not acknowledged by the College Board in AP assessments

Future Directions

- Learn from exemplars such as IMSA
- Utilize current infrastructure (e.g. state-wide virtual schools, online professional development providers)
- Continued dialogue with academies, museums, national laboratories, policy makers