

**The Politics of Change  
in  
Science Education**

**North Carolina  
Science Leadership Association**

**Panel Presentation**

**Tom Williams  
NCSMT Education Center  
November 18, 2009**

**Reality and history has taught me...**

**...that if you are waiting for what you  
want to have happen in Science  
Education to come from the outside .....  
you are in for a long wait!**

**What matters most is...**

**What you teach.  
How you teach.  
How you assess what is being learned.**

**Intention for Our Session...**

- Expand our thinking on the politics of change.**
- Explore resource strategies for science.**
- Stimulate your resolve to leading the change!**

**My Context (or Is It Bias?)**

School superintendent

Business/Education non-profit executive director

NC SMT Education Center

**I've Been Asked to Address Two Key Areas**

1. **Processes/mechanisms to enhance resource allocation to rural LEAs**
2. **Current and potential avenues to improve student engagement in science research and competition**

**Resource Allocations Begin With You!**

**Do you know how much is allotted to the schools?**

**Do you know how it is being spent and on what?**

**You have to be the voice - the conscience of needed science resources.**

**You have to be the CHAMPION on the VALUE of science to the students, schools, and community.**

**Primary LEA Resources**

- Regular instructional supplies
- Low wealth funds
- Small schools funding
- DSSF
- Local funding
- Federal funds – variety based on local plan

Are you thinking school house to statehouse?  
Who are your potential partners?

**Internally**

- Teacher needs and daily dilemmas
- Principals' customers and many voices
- Superintendents and Boards of Education

Are you thinking school house to statehouse?  
Who are your potential partners?

**Externally**

- County Commissioners
- Chambers of Commerce/Education Foundations
- Higher Education
- Businesses/Scientific Community
- Legislative Leaders

Becoming the Voice of Science Education

- Begin with the public's attitude toward science
- Craft a compelling message about science
- How does science affect us? Our community?
- Thinking about science across all subjects
- Bring the community into the school
- Take your school out to the community
- Be in it for the long haul

Increasing Student Engagement

- Starts with teacher leadership and initiative
- Start where you are, no matter how small
- Earn leadership support - it is essential
- Assess and build community partnerships
- Develop a plan
- Empower student to student relationships
- Cultivate community awareness
- Celebrate success

**SREB Leader Gene Bottoms**  
Message to NC Legislators – November 2009

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**It all begins with teacher knowledge of math and science content.**

- Make adolescent reading a priority
- Accelerate curriculum for struggling students
- Better prepare students for Algebra I by grade eight or nine
- Teach inquiry-based science
- Support professional development of teachers and school principals
- Build student aspirations for college, advanced training and careers- education planning, and
- Develop and adopt a vision for the middle grades.

**Contact Information**

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**Follow Up Session**

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**Partnership Matrix**

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	Human	Technical	Financial
<b>Support</b>			
<b>Enhance</b>			
<b>Innovate</b>			

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