

FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q *Isn't professional development a responsibility of the district?*

Absolutely. All three school districts have identified the implementation of 21st Century Skills as a priority in long term strategic plans as well as short term operational goals. By offering professional learning opportunities in the summer our districts will be able to reach more teachers and respond to the needs of our community as soon as possible.

Q *Who will benefit?*

Teachers, students and ultimately the business community who is seeking a well-prepared workforce and future employees. There are numerous examples of partnerships where students explore careers that await them in the community where they live. Our "Education that Works" partnership is committed to scaling successful projects. The connections and capacity of this partnership aims to expand these opportunities to a broader range of students in our region.

Q *How do 21st Century Skills relate to the Common Core?*

Education standards evolve and education initiatives come and go. Colleges, businesses, and parents agree communication, critical thinking, creative problem solving, and collaboration skills are essential regardless of a student's score on the latest standardized test. By emphasizing 21st Century Skills, teachers help students learn the content standards by applying skills that will make them successful in college and careers.



Building Partnerships Among Schools, Businesses and Community Leaders for

EDUCATION THAT WORKS

WHAT ARE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS? THESE 4 C'S:

COMMUNICATION:
Sharing thoughts, questions, ideas & solutions

COLLABORATION:
Working together to reach a goal. Putting talent, expertise, and smarts to work

CREATIVITY:
Trying new approaches to get things done equals innovation & invention

CRITICAL THINKING:
Looking at problems in a new way and linking learning across subjects & disciplines

OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN TODAY'S STUDENTS AND TOMMOROW'S WORKFORCE

\$5000 PLATINUM SPONSOR

- Participation in classroom projects
- Logos on select promotional materials
- Business highlighted in district publications
- Business name included in media releases
- Representation on "Education that Works" Advisory Council
- Logo on Economic Development Corporation website

\$2500 GOLD SPONSOR

- Participation in classroom projects
- Logo on table tents during event(s)
- Logo on banner displayed during event(s)
- Business highlighted in district publications about event

\$1000 SILVER SPONSOR

- Participation in classroom projects
- Logo in presentation slides
- Logo on participant handouts
- Logo on table tents during event

\$500 BRONZE SPONSOR

- Participation in classroom projects
- Logo in presentation slides
- Logo on participant handouts



Dr. Jeff Schatz *Fargo Public Schools Superintendent* • Dr. Lynne Kovash *Moorhead Public Schools Superintendent*
 Dr. David Flowers *West Fargo Public Schools Superintendent* • Jim Gartin *Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation President*
 Sher Thomsen, *United Way of Cass-Clay President*



“Project-based learning gives students a problem, and teachers guide the students through the process of finding solutions while incorporating teamwork. Educators are learning new techniques to teach students and tying techniques into existing curriculum.

Through our connections with the Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC, United Way and conversations within the community, we’re recognizing the demand for these types of skills.”

-Dr. Jeff Schatz, Fargo Public Schools Superintendent

WHAT IS THE EDUCATION THAT *WORKS* PARTNERSHIP?

Through the Education that *Works* initiative, the three K-12 metro area public school districts, the Economic Development Corporation and the United Way are collaborating to increase community awareness, accelerate teacher development and support the evolution of education to better align student learning with the needs of an ever-changing, technologically-advanced world.

OUR GOALS

COMMUNITY-WIDE AWARENESS:

This initiative focuses on creating community-wide awareness of the changing landscape of education. The educational environment is evolving to include problem-based learning that places greater emphasis on communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. This initiative seeks to strengthen the dialogue with stakeholders, including parents and teachers, about what the changes mean for the classroom, and how we can work together to align education with an ever-changing technologically-advanced world.

With supporting information sources like a video, website and literature, we hope to spur conversation and strengthen the understanding of what is needed to ensure our children’s success. If education and industry can work together, we can have a tremendous impact on our children’s future.

ACCELERATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS:

In order to meet the needs of industry and to ensure long-term student success, the initiative supports accelerated teacher development. Supporting teachers through extensive professional development creates the needed momentum to respond to today’s educational needs.

This summer, the initiative will support and expand three main professional development opportunities for teachers and students. In the future, we will look for opportunities to scale those events and partner on additional initiatives that support teacher and student development.

PREPARING TOMORROW’S EDUCATORS:

Corporations are increasing their recruitment of innovators and technological experts from other countries because our education system is not providing them with the workforce they need.

In response to this, our third initiative focuses on tomorrow’s educators.

We are partnering with higher education to evaluate teacher preparation in the college and university systems. Together we will work to more closely align teacher preparation with education’s current needs.

Our initiative has paired K-12 education leaders with leaders at Minnesota State University Moorhead in a sector-focused meeting format. The initiative will continue to partner with other higher education institutions on this challenge.

YOUR INVESTMENT WILL SUPPORT...

By investing in this partnership you will help provide experiences for local students and educators as well as the resources needed to communicate these educational needs to our stakeholders and greater community.

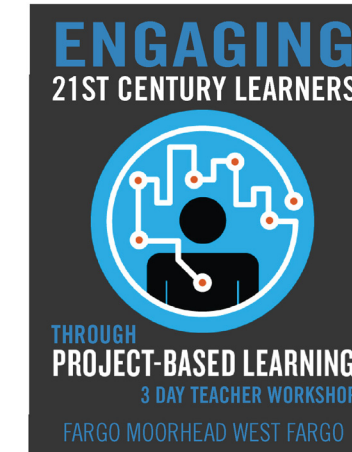


June 10-13, 2014

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:
Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo,
DGF School Districts &
Concordia College

- Offers a 3 day technology immersion experience for teachers.
- Teachers attend a series of session facilitated by other teachers to share ideas for bringing 21st Century Skills in to their classrooms.
- Includes EdVentures Business tours so teachers can see “The 4 C’s” in action among employees at local businesses.

School districts are contributing to facilitator fees and teacher stipends, but are seeking sponsorships for event costs.



July 21-23 or July 28-30, 2014

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:
Fargo, Moorhead, & West Fargo
School Districts

- Ongoing collaboration on a multi-year effort to implement 21st Century Skills in all grade levels and courses across metro school districts.
- 3 day workshop focused on training teachers to engage students in relevant, authentic work through project-based learning.
- Designed to empower teachers to shift current classroom practice to more closely resemble how the world operates outside of school.

School districts are contributing to classroom curriculum and teacher stipends, but are seeking sponsorships for national presenter speaker fees and workshop costs.



June 24-25 & July 15-16, 2014

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:
School districts and mentors from the
business community

- This summer tech camp experience is designed for middle school students.
- Connects students with mentors from our business community to assist students in creating digital projects such as apps, GIS technologies and websites.
- Students choose from a variety of two day experiences developed and facilitated by local businesses.

School districts are collaborating to coordinate and secure partnerships, but are seeking sponsorships for camp costs such as food, t-shirts, and supplies.