

A Leadership Summit to Effect Change in Teaching and Learning

October 3-5, 2006

at the National Academy of Sciences building in Washington, D.C.

About 150 faculty and administrators from major U.S. universities, about a dozen CEOs from several Fortune 500 companies, and our Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce decided collectively that university graduates in science-related fields should have skills and experiences to be competitive in today's rapidly changing labor markets:

A. well-developed personal skills

(basic skills that are transferable across settings and over time)

1. written and oral communication
2. problem-solving and analytical reasoning
3. critical thinking

B. well-developed social skills

(communicating and working collaboratively with others)

1. leadership capabilities
2. collaborative experiences
3. ability to work well in groups

C. interdisciplinary experiences

(learning experiences that cross disciplines because the problems you will be expected to solve later cross disciplines)

1. interdisciplinary class or research experiences
2. team-taught classes

D. non-traditional learning experiences

(learning outside the conventional classroom)

1. experiential learning
2. research experience (in a lab or in the field)
3. internship experience in any type of organization
4. service learning (active engagement with community outside of traditional classes)

E. international/global experiences

(learning outside your own local or national context)

1. international or study abroad experience
2. proficiency with one or more languages
3. ability to appreciate cultural variation and learn from other peoples