

Columbus Summit on Educating Ohio's Global Talent

The Central Ohio summit was the fourth in the series. After the first three summits it became apparent to the International Education Advisory Committee that the strategic plan needed to be prioritized. The action steps needed closer scrutiny to be sure they would lead to the desired state described in the draft strategic plan. The questions for discussion at the Columbus event were revised to meet that need.

The first question asked of participants was, "How well do the action steps in the strategic plan meet the needs for international education in Central Ohio?" Participants were asked to first work individually to identify the needs for international education related to their schools, businesses or organizations. Most of those individual needs can be grouped into a few categories. The two most frequently mentioned were:

- Intercultural understanding including appreciation of diversity, sensitivity, awareness of cultural norms and ability to collaborate across cultures; and
- Language related concerns including the need to begin instruction early, development of language expertise for use in scientific or business settings and funding for language programs.

Also mentioned by multiple individuals were:

- The need for global awareness so that students of all ages, ordinary citizens and leaders understand trends and how global issues are relevant to them.
- Technology availability, training and use;
- Exchanges where teachers and students are in contact with people from other countries either in the local community or through travel;
- Cross curricular infusion of international content and training that would result in innovation and problem solving; and
- An emphasis on higher expectations and training in science and mathematics.

New ideas that were mentioned:

- A clearer statement that international education is important for all students.
- More career information
- The need for an "elevator speech."
- Research

After participants listed their needs, they were asked to identify an action step that would address their needs. Every action step listed in the strategic plan was identified by at least two individual indicating that there is some merit to all of them but rankings may be helpful in prioritization. The steps are listed below with the frequency that they appeared on the charts. Those identified by ten or more individuals are shaded.

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Action Steps	Number of Individuals Identifying the Action Step as Meeting Their Need
1.1 Ensure that all citizens have information that demonstrates Ohio's connections to global systems.	14
1.2 Enlist the support of businesses and foundations.	10
1.3 Create a multi-media campaign to disseminate information about Ohio's global connections and the need for international education.	8
2.1 Catalogue current community programs in a searchable online database and maintain.	4
2.2 Ensure that community organizations and institutions are aware of the need for international programming.	8
2.3 Document commitments from businesses and community organizations to sponsor international education opportunities for students and teachers.	4
2.3 Create guidelines for maximizing effectiveness of internships, speakers and fieldtrips.	3
3.1 Create opportunities for students to meet people from other countries by leveraging connections with cultural institutions, service organizations, businesses and universities in the local area.	30
3.2 Provide guidance on how to engage and establish partnerships.	13
3.3 Create partnerships or joint projects with schools in other countries.	11
3.4 Send students and teachers to study abroad.	20
4.1 Provide a professional development toolkit with rationale for internationalization and incremental steps toward internationalizing curriculum.	10
4.2 Benchmark Ohio content standards to international standards	4
4.3 Incorporate an international focus into academic content standards when they are revised.	13
4.4 Work with public television and radio to provide programming with international focus.	7
4.5 Establish internationally themed schools to serve as models to other Ohio schools.	4
5.1 Network schools with existing early language programs and highlight their accomplishments.	7
5.2 Create incentives for schools to start world language education early so that students have long sequences of instruction that lead to proficiency.	16
6.1 Disseminate models of best practices in study of world regions, cultures and issues.	10
6.2 Create opportunities to recognize and celebrate diversity.	7
7.1 Publicize existing co-curricular programs so that they can be replicated.	2

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Action Steps	Number of Individuals Identifying the Action Step as Meeting Their Need
8.1 Develop options for internationalizing teacher preparation.	7
8.2 Create collaborative international partnerships through colleges of education and professional organizations.	8
9.1 Provide examples of interdisciplinary projects at advanced levels.	3
9.2 Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate 21st century skills through performance assessments.	3
9.3 Provide professional development to demonstrate new ways of learning that incorporate 21st century skills.	5
9.4 Provide guidance on best practices for using technology in international education.	4
10.1 Provide compelling evidence of the need for schools to internationalize content, context and thinking skills.	9
10.2 Incorporate international education into school reform efforts.	6
10.3 Encourage school districts to adopt policies that encourage international education.	4
11.1 Create viable regional networking for international education or infuse international perspectives into existing networks.	5

During the second discussion period the groups were asked to select a specific action step and supply suggestions for making that action a reality. Many of the suggestions included ideas that are incorporated in the draft strategic plan. New suggestions include:

- A discussion board on the Think Global Ohio web site
- Inclusion of international efforts in the district continuous improvement plan
- Infusion into afterschool programs like scouting or 4H
- Training speakers to work with students effectively