



**STEM Forum 2006:
A Community Conversation on Science, Technology, Engineering, and
Mathematics (STEM) Education and Careers**

Thursday, December 7, 2006

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Program Concept and Approach

Dialogue, the capacity of members of a team to suspend assumptions and enter into a genuine thinking together...*Dialogue* differs from the more common notion of *discussion* which has its roots with percussion and concussion, literally a heaving of ideas back and forth in a winner take all competition. *Peter Senge*

The spirit in which we invite you to participate in this program is very much explained by the notion of a *dialogue*. We invite you -- friends and colleagues, educators and entrepreneurs, scholars and employers, all of us with a stake in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and career engagement -- to engage in genuine and creative thinking about engaging students in STEM education and careers.

This program is comprised of two plenary sessions and a participant roundtable discussion. The **first plenary session** includes a lead **speaker** who, in about 20 minutes, will address that session's topic. They will be followed by **panelists** who provide further K-12, college/university, community and business perspectives (about 5 minutes each).

In the **participant roundtable discussion** all participants will have an opportunity for small-group dialogue about the program's topics. Each roundtable will have a **facilitator** and a **reporter**. The number of people in each roundtable will be determined by the total number of participants.

The **second plenary session** will entail reports from each of the **participant roundtables** (about 2 - 3 minutes each, again, depending upon the number of participants), along with a summary/synthesis from a selected moderator and speaker. **Roundtable reporters** are asked to summarize the key issues and action items generated.

The themes around which this Forum is organized are:

- 1. What are the near- and long-term challenges associated with STEM workforce development in the current and emerging world marketplace; and*
- 2. How can we further leverage our region's considerable K-12, College/university, Community, Public and Business resources to further develop a STEM-proficient workforce prepared for the emerging global marketplace: An action agenda.*

**Please note: the program is available on the Web at
www.esf.edu/outreach/stemforum**

All of us involved in this program appreciate your active participation and contributions. We look forward to working with you.

Chuck Spuches