

Education on Long Island: Opportunities and Challenges

2011 November 11

Three issues were explored.

- First, the awareness by Long Island teachers of the numerous well publicized and well-funded programs aimed at attracting more students to the scientific and technical professions and improving the learning outcomes of K-12 students.
- Second, the degree to which any of these programs are being used in Long Island schools.
- And finally the usefulness of possible areas for improvement of these programs.

A participant at the meeting discussed the concept of "Career Academies" within high schools. These are programmed to relate curricula to local industry needs--making learning "relevant to a career context". The program is described as aligning economic development, workforce development and education to create a geographically appropriate pipeline of employable workers. The career academy program is supportive of the larger Empire State STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics Learning Network).

The meeting was well attended, animated with successes and failures explored. An important objective is to form a task force that will continue to study and help promote the advancement of K-12 education on Long Island in order to meet 21st Century challenges. Interested volunteers are sought.