



PARTNERSHIP FOR
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Meeting with Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP)
November 7, 2003
9am-11am (EST)
1341 G. St., NW
STE 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Attendees:

Michael Solem, Association of American Geographers (AAG)
Roger Downs, AAG
M. Duane Nellis, AAG
Mary Lynne Bird, American Geographical Society (AGS)
Barbara Chow, National Geographic Society (NGS)
Chris Shearer, NGS
Richard Anderson, National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)
Kenneth E. Foot, NCGE
Osa Brand, NCGE
Michal L. LeVasseur, NCGE
Sarah Witham Bednarz, GENIP
Amelia Maurizio, Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Diny Golder Dardis, Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Kristan Van Hook, Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Carrie Smith-Dent, Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- I. Overview of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (Partnership) and its year 1 Report and MILE Guide
- II. Overview of Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP)

GENIP is comprised of the four national geography organizations and plays a coordinating role between the four organizations:

- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)
- American Geographical Society (AGS)
- National Geographic Society (NGS)

In addition to coordinating between the four organizations, GENIP ensures that the geography standards are being implemented within the organizations.

GENIP helped to develop:

- The National Geography Standards
- NAEP Geography 1 and 2 assessment questions
- The group also mentioned their work with NASA in showing how geography links into the science curriculum

GENIP is interested in the dissemination of:

- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) curriculum, skills and assessments in L-12 schools
- Geo-spatial skills throughout core subjects
- Geography literacy

Roger mentioned that he and several of the other participants are part of a NAS study on thinking spatially that is looking at graphics, visualization and geospatial technologies. He emphasized that the group is interested both in geography as it relates to ICT literacy as well as the importance of geospatial skills throughout the curriculum. Often these skills are in the geography part of the math or social studies curriculum.

We also discussed the importance of a student knowing how to ask good questions and several examples of why this skill is particularly important in geography, whether or not one uses technology.

The group mentioned the Geographic Alliances, a program that is about 17 years old and supports professional development in university programs around geographic information and skills. Among other things, the program encourages university teachers to use GIS and other technologies in their teaching. They noted this as possible place to look for highlighted examples in the area of professional development.

II. Discussion of the Partnership's plans for year 2:

- Implement the MILE Guide in schools and districts
- Encourage the integration of 21st century skills in to core subjects
- Develop materials to support education leaders and show how 21st century skills complement the tasks of NCLB
- Gather success stories and highlighted examples
- Develop on-line tools based on the MILE Guide focusing on ICT Literacy and Professional Development
- Develop a view of 21st Century Skills through the Nine Steps to Build Momentum, found in the year one report
- Develop a one to two page document demonstrating how ICT Literacy can be implemented into the curriculum using geography as an example

III. Group Discussion

- 21st century skills should be incorporated into classroom learning. This means that students and educators need to understand the concepts as well as the "big picture." Many folks are concerned that integrating technology into learning means disposing of the fundamentals, however, we encourage educators to infuse and integrate technology into the fundamentals.
- Teacher education schools and programs need to move forward on the integration of 21st century skills in to core teacher education curriculum, "I use in the classroom what I was shown in the classroom."
- Educators should encourage and support assessments of 21st century skills in real time.

IV. Moving Forward

GENIP is interested in working with the Partnership moving forward. We agreed to work together in a number of areas including:

GENIP also agreed to set up a process for providing feedback on the following questions:

1. How does the Partnership's mission align with the GENIP mission?
2. What resources and or information can GENIP share with the Partnership which can be aligned to the sections in the MILE Guide?
3. Does GENIP have any suggestions on how to view these resources through the eyes of the 9 steps to build momentum?
4. How can we best work together to address specifically:
 - a. Describing learning skills and 21st century tools (ICT Literacy) in such a way that facilitates educator's efforts to include geography skills in the curriculum.
 - b. The alignment of geography standards to the NAEP assessment and your recommendation expansion of those skills/standards.
 - c. The inclusion of geography standards focused on 21st century skills in state standards or student outcome documents.
 - d. Highlighted examples of how curriculum used in the classroom includes ICT Literacy as a component of teaching geography.
 - e. Highlighted examples of geography skills addressed in pre-and in-service professional development.

In addition to answering the above questions, GENIP can help the Partnership through:

- Encouraging adoption of a common nomenclature regarding 21st century skills
- Encouraging other education and content area organizations to work with the Partnership
- Help to disseminate the Partnership's work
- Include a link to the Partnership's work on the GENIP website

The Partnership will:

- Work with your group to include the above in the Year 2 online tool
- Invite GENIP leadership in the upcoming Tucson Forum on 21st Century Skills (March 15, 16)
- Provide MILE Guide workshop materials that can be used by GENIP to conduct workshops, presentations and focus groups about 21st Century Skills
- Provide GENIP a list of states that have addressed ICT Literacy in their teacher certification process