

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary:

The Board of Regents Mathematics and Science Collaborative Initiative was created in 2007 in response to the growing crisis in achievement by Iowa students in mathematics and science. A study of national, state, and local data confirmed the problem and revealed that most educators in the state believe that Iowa must dramatically improve the teaching of mathematics and science at all levels of the educational system. The Regent universities are committed to collaborating in the effort to address this crisis. Because of the University of Northern Iowa's mission and role as the premier teacher training educational institution in the state, the Board of Regents directed the University and, specifically, President Ben Allen, to spearhead this collaborative initiative between the three Regent universities and other key players in the state. This initiative will have long-lasting benefit for the citizens and the state of Iowa.

President Allen will present an update on the initiative. He will discuss the mathematics and science teacher crises in pre-K through 12th grade education and the goals for improving the performance of Iowa students in mathematics and science. One critical goal is to prepare a larger number of high-quality mathematics and science teachers as well as to bridge the gap between pre-K through 16th grade education.

President Allen will also discuss the key issues of educational curriculum, teacher preparation programs, and professional development for current practitioners. He will review the importance of assessment and identifying measurable student outcomes. Finally, he will discuss the determination of the next steps, which will include forming a steering committee and conducting an inventory of mathematics and science projects, need for resources, best practices, and strategies.