

Second Florida Summit on Mathematics and Science Education (Florida Summit II)

In February 2005, Florida held an NSF-supported Summit on Mathematics and Science Education. That summit resulted in specific action plans for the Governor and legislature, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), and top level school and district administrators. As a result of the summit, the FDOE recognized Florida's need for effective education in mathematics and science and convened a second summit in December of 2005. Florida Summit II was supported by the Florida Coalition for Improving Mathematics and Science Literacy (CIMS), the University of South Florida Coalition for Science Literacy (CSL at USF), the National Science Foundation (Grant Number EHR-0451272 to CSL at USF), the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC), Lockheed-Martin, Emergent Design Inc., and FDOE.

The target audience of the second summit was elementary and secondary school principals and school district instructional leaders; a number of key legislators also attended. The second summit had three principal goals:

- reinforce understanding of the critical need of Florida's economy for strong, world-class education in mathematics and science for all Florida students,
- develop plans to implement the recommendations developed at the first Summit, and
- assist legislative leaders in formulating plans for legislative actions needed to strengthen mathematics and science education on a large, systemic scale.

Florida Summit II included comments by Education Commissioner John Winn, K-12 Chancellor Dr. Cheri Pierson Yecke, Dr. Norman Thagard (Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Challenger Learning Center, Tallahassee), Dr. Patricia O'Connell Ross (US DOE), Dr. Harry Orf (Scripps Florida), and Dr. Gene Bottoms (High Schools that Work).