From the Desk of the Chancellor

Workforce preparation

Nov. 12, 2013

by Charles R. Bantz

An audience of some 200 educators, counselors, administrators, workforce development agents, and business and industry leaders are expected to attend “Achieve More Indiana: Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Workforce” on November 17. I’ll be on the panel along with Rob Smith, Senior Director of Corporate Responsibility at Eli Lilly and Company and President of the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation; Mark Levett, Vice President of Corporate Responsibility and Community Relations for Cummins, and CEO of the Cummins Foundation; Reginald McGregor, Manager for Engineering Employee Development at Rolls-Royce Corporation; and Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of Project Lead The Way.

Project Lead The Way is the host, and Rafael Sanchez (RTV6 reporter) will moderate the panel. PLTW is a nonprofit that provides STEM educational materials to schools, and IUPUI has long been a partner in their efforts, largely through UCASE (Urban Center for the Advancement of STEM Education, a joint effort among our Schools of Science, Education, and Engineering and Technology at IUPUI).

The panel’s objectives will be to identify ways to strengthen relationships between business, education, and nonprofits that are aimed at improving STEM education. We’d like to think about ways we can work together to better match students’ education to the skills needed in today’s workforce. Among the items we are likely to discuss is, how did we develop a culture that math is hard, and what can we do to change this systematic discouragement of STEM-oriented studies? How can we help teachers and parents foster students’ curiosity, and how can we help students see that math and science are essential problem-solving tools in today’s world? How can we better direct public funding to ensure that education is rooted in industry needs?

Seating is limited, so if you wish to attend, you’ll need to register. Tickets are available for $55/seat and reservations can be made here (click the Sunday-only option in the registration box): www.conf.purdue.edu/pltw.

What: Project Lead The Way “Achieve More Indiana: Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Workforce” panel discussion

When: Sunday, November 17, 2013

Time: 6:15 to 7 p.m. hors d’oeuvres and networking; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. panel discussion

Where: The Sheraton, Keystone at the Crossing, 8787 Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, IN 46240

Comments? Write chancllr@iupui.edu.

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