

University Support of K-12 Education: How and Why?



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Questions to be addressed

- Why should universities support K-12 education?
- Who can entice universities to support K-12 education and how?
- How do universities inhibit activities that support K-12 education?
- How can universities support K-12 education?



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Why should universities support K-12 education?

- Recruitment/retention, especially women and minorities
- Enhance education university wide
- Provide alternate career paths for graduate students
- Economic development
- Additional sources of funding
- Improve university cohesiveness



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Who can entice universities to support K-12 ed and how?

- **Internal pressure**
 - Bottom up - faculty/students working via deans
 - Top down - presidents/deans rewarding faculty and students
 - Special cases - Bruce Alberts, Carl Wieman
- **External pressure**
 - Business
 - Legislatures
 - Professional societies
 - Board of Regents/Trustees



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How do universities inhibit activities that support K-12 education?

- Tenure/promotion/salary policies
- Publications not weighted equally
- Grants devalued because fewer \$\$
- Faculty/graduate students actively discouraged from participating
- No support for education grants
- Collaboration w/college of education discouraged or not valued



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How can universities support K-12 education?

- Outreach office
- University sponsored programs
- Publicize for outreach grant opportunities
- Tenure/promotion/salary policies
- Opportunities for graduate students
- College of education & science dialogue
- Website



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Websites matter



- <http://www.stem.vt.edu>
- <http://www.scienceoutreach.org>

