

# *Human Capital Committee*

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Johnson Space Center, July 20, 2006

# Topics Addressed

- Activities since JPL meeting
- NASA Education Program
- NASA Small & Disadvantaged Business Program
- Future directions

# Human Capital Activities Since May JPL Meeting

- Meeting with NASA Education staff in Washington.
- Discussed partnerships between educational organizations and NASA.
- Received and reviewed NASA materials for Ad Hoc Education Partnerships.
- Received and reviewed NRC document “Issues Affecting the Future of the U. S. Space Science and Engineering Workforce-Interim Report”.
- Received and reviewed American Council on Education report “Increasing the Success of Minority Students in Science and Technology”.
- Prepared invited paper for NAS conference in September on “Identifying and Developing Talent in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”.

# Presentations by NASA Education Staff-July 19, 2006

- Presentation on *The Office of Education's International Education Activities*-
  - John Hairston, Assistant Administrator for Education and Garvey McIntosh, Office of External Relations
- Presentation on *NASA Education: Student Pipeline*
  - Jim Stofan, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Education Programs
- Presentation on **Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**
  - James Balinskas, Acting Assistant Administrator, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

# Interactions with NASA Education Staff

- The Education Office is in a state of flux due to recent personnel changes. (*these changes have affected the timely transition of information to the HC committee*).
- **Observation:** NASA does not currently have a coherent picture of the entire agency scope of “partners” in education.
- **Observation:** There still is not a comprehensive program in NASA to focus on the “Best and Brightest” (i. e. the top 5%).

# Interactions with NASA Education Staff (2)

- It appears that there is a positive effort to consider new directions in NASA/Education partnerships.
- The HC committee requested a more detailed listing of current partners in education to review the status of the partnerships.

# Interactions with NASA Education Staff (3)

- ***Observation:*** The program to attract underrepresented students to NASA has been implemented with positive results.

# International Education

- Programs for exposure of U. S. students to International Space Programs are underway and the office is open to suggestions on how to improve them.
- The Education Office needs to investigate the use of the Space University to enhance the exposure of American to non-U. S. space programs.
- The staff at the Education Office feels that they are restrained by current U. S. regulations to employ talented non-U. S. engineers and scientists in NASA.

## International Education-(2)

- The use of NGO's should be included in the current discussion for international educational partnerships.
- The staff at the Education Office is willing to start a dialogue to address the issue of involving non-U. S. graduates in NASA projects.
- **Observation:** The current attitude in Government agencies seems to be that the net flow of information out of the country outweighs the advantages that could accrue due to the employment of bright non-U. S. graduates in the U. S. Space Program.

# Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization

- NASA has had an exemplary record including Small & Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB) in its programs.
- The SDB office has suffered severe losses in key personnel in the past year. This situation needs to be rectified if NASA hopes to continue its past productive interaction with US small business.
- The Mentor Protégé program should be examined for inclusiveness (i. e., veteran owned business).
- NASA should careful not to reduce its level of contracting with SDB's because of their significant contribution to quality performance on major contracts.

# Future Activities

- Step up our analysis of NASA/Educational Partnerships
- Participate in NAS/NRC national debates on increasing the attention to STEM issues
- Work with Science Committee on communications concerning the purpose of and results from the major Lunar Science Planning Meeting next Feb./March.
- Meet with AA at NASA to understand where that office is focusing on education.