The Boston Science Partnership: A New Vision of Urban Education

Mission: The Boston Science Partnership (BSP) aims to improve science education in Boston from middle school through graduate school. The BSP is changing the culture of science education in Boston. The BSP invests in human capital (its teachers, teacher leaders, higher education faculty) and social capital (evolving relationships, learning communities, partnerships). We are building a spirit of achievement, focusing the conversation on science education, and increasing knowledge about science instruction. Students are performing better, have access to advanced courses as never before, and are prepared for a future in science.

What we did: As our successes were leveraged into additional projects, the principal investigators could not sustain the level of work on day-to-day operations. We needed to identify staff who would find value in our programs.

What we did: Change is constant. We worked to bring the new participants up to speed on the project. We found ways to help them take ownership of and credit for new aspects of the work. The new leaders have brought new ideas and fresh thinking to the challenges of science education.

Sustaining $12.5M and five years worth of programs is impossible. However, making lasting changes to science education with such a large investment is a moral obligation. We needed to identify those components that could stay on.

What we did: We took advantage of opportunities for new grants and partnerships, continued to change the culture of the institutional partners to support science education, and adapted strategies to maximize cost effectiveness.

I am so proud of my teachers! But they can’t leave the building.

I need a nap.

Easy. Just write