State Funding Proposal for NOVA’s SySTEMic Solution

The Problem:
Northern Virginia faces a critical shortage of scientists, engineers and technicians.

Our Proposed Solution:
SySTEMic Solutions provides a replicable model to supply skilled workers through bringing a comprehensive STEM curriculum, intensive teacher training process and numerous dual enrollment student enrichment opportunities together in one research-based approach.

Expand NOVA’s proven workforce program region-wide; giving additional school systems and employers a chance to participate. This effort is being championed in the General Assembly on a bi-partisan basis by Delegate Jim Scott (D-Fairfax) and Delegate Tag Greason (R-Loudoun). They have introduced Budget Amendment #212h that will support this initiative.

Many organizations and corporations don’t have the ability or resources to develop and run their own programs, but want to contribute to growing the technology workforce.

The community college is uniquely positioned throughout the region to rapidly expand this model to all of its service areas, which includes all of the school divisions in Northern Virginia.

Necessary Funding and Your Projected Return on Investment:
A $1 Million commitment ($500,000 each year of the biennium) would bolster and expand SySTEMic Solutions beyond the current service area of Prince William to include Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington, and Alexandria. The $1M from the General Assembly will be matched by corporations to be able to sustain and continue to expand these programs. SySTEMic Solution’s existing Executive Planning Council, comprised of corporate partners would be engaged to help expand these opportunities but also make them sustainable. In addition, new corporate partners would be encouraged to join the initiative and support these activities throughout the region.

This expansion would take six months to one year to scale up from inception to region wide program launch. If this investment is made, we project that over 16,000 students will be in the technology worker pipeline by 2015-2016. Finally, the NOVA model is scalable for the entire Commonwealth.

Endorsements thus far for the Budget Amendment:
Northern Virginia Technology Council,
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce,
Prince William Chamber of Commerce,
Loudoun Chamber of Commerce,
Arlington Chamber of Commerce,
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce,
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, other chambers pending, George Mason University, and George Washington University.