

Arkansas STEM Coalition Activities

Michael A. Gealt

Building the Arkansas Innovation Economy

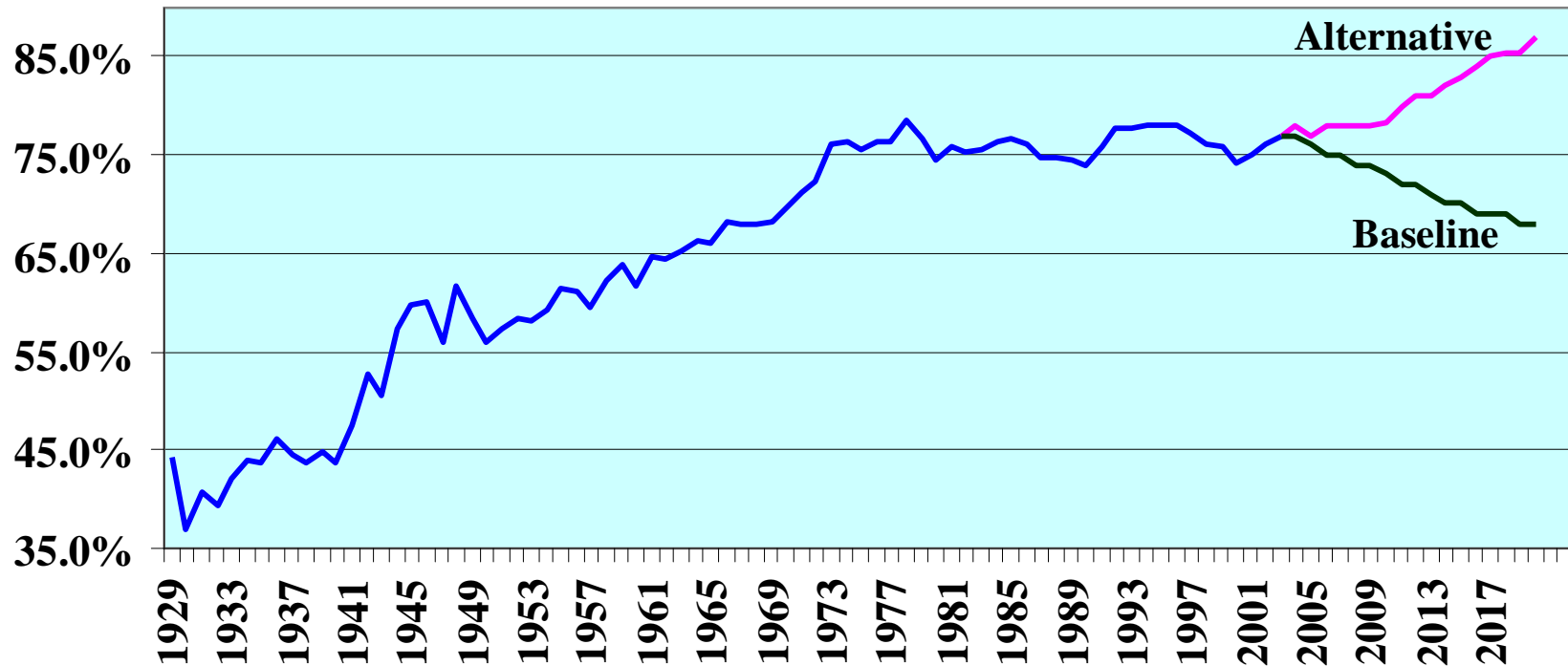
March 9, 2010

Mission

- Arkansas STEM Coalition is
 - Statewide partnership from the corporate, education, government and community sectors
 - Plans, encourages, coordinates and advocates policies, strategies and programs supportive of excellence in STEM teaching and learning
 - Purpose is to expand the economy of Arkansas and produce higher paying jobs.

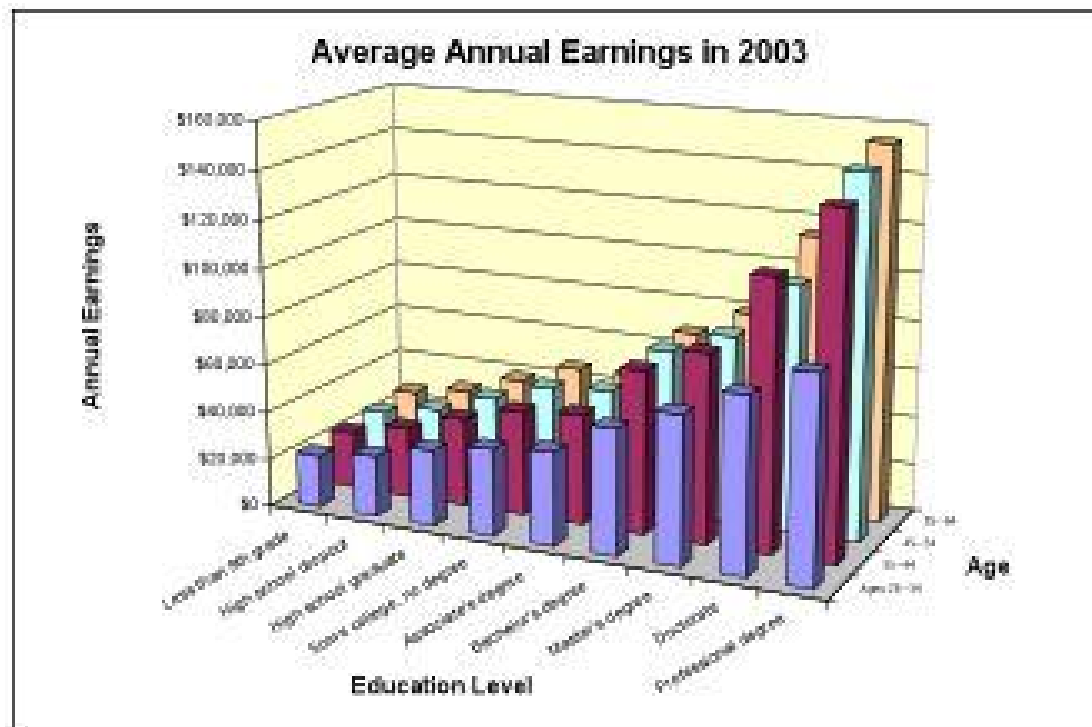
The Risk of Inaction

Arkansas - Percent of National Income Per Capita



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Education and Annual Earnings

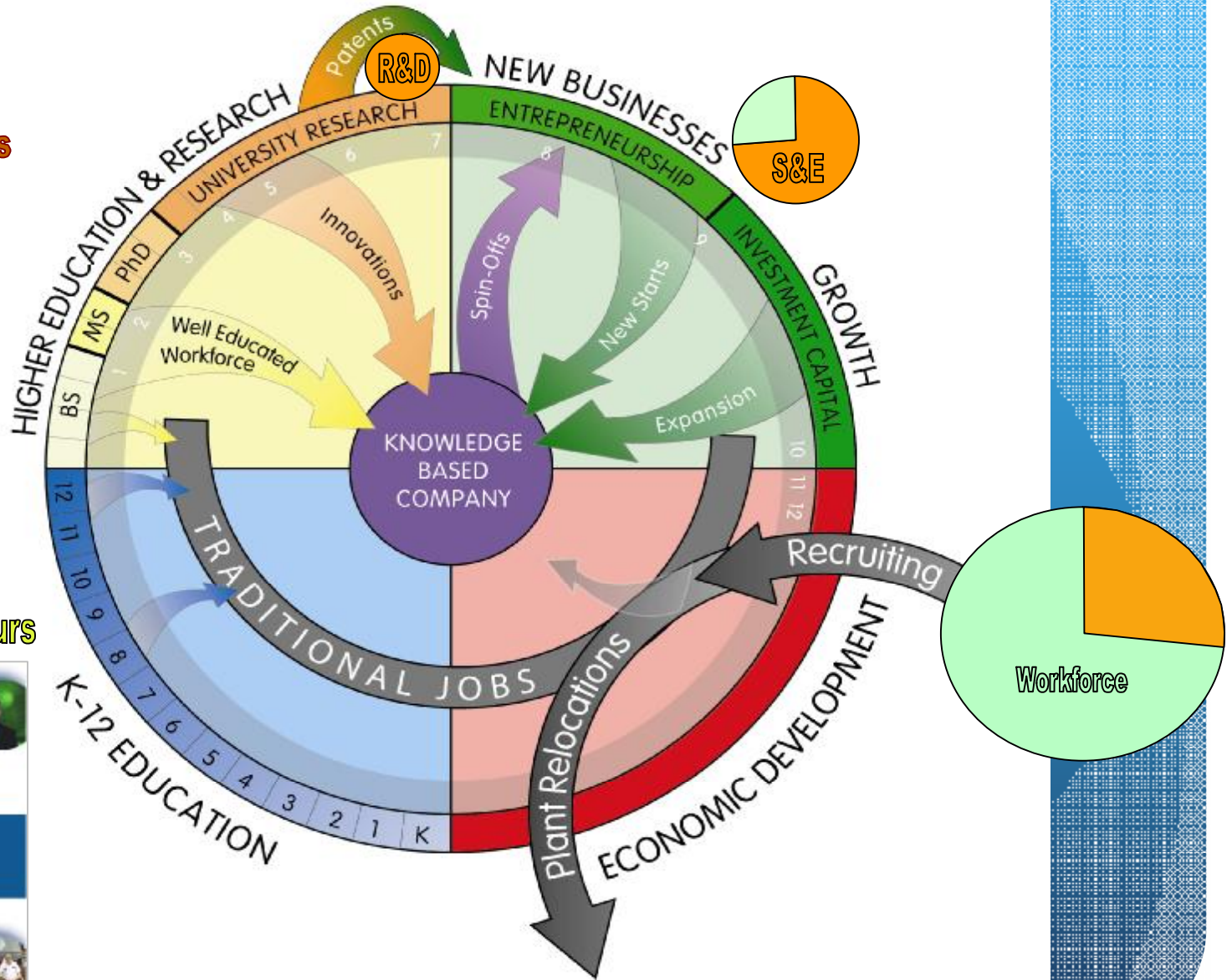
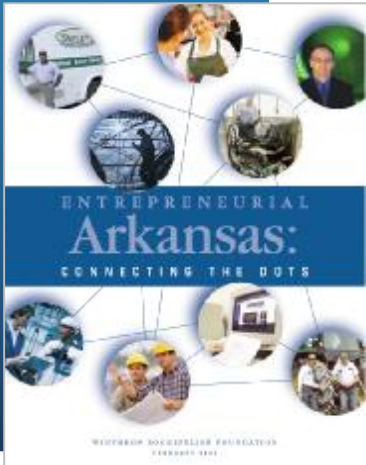


Department of Labor data and published in the
2004 Annual Report of the Federal Reserve

The System

Skills before jobs

Growth Entrepreneurs



Why is STEM Coalition Necessary?

- Arkansas per capita salaries are below national average
- Arkansas population ~20% college educated, while USA population ~26%
- Current workforce needs (Accelerate Arkansas strongly supports STEM education initiatives)
- Knowledge-based economy of the future requires STEM knowledge
- “Honest Broker” function

What We Do

- Promote educational skills that affect our future workforce
- Support high quality STEM education, including required technology
- Serve as a think-tank for ideas to improve STEM education
- Advocate for successful educational models
- Influence educational policy, public understanding and public engagement in STEM education

Specific Goals

- Integration of STEM concepts and necessary technology into core curricula P-16.
- Increase STEM interest in elementary education
 - Science Specialists
 - Math Specialists
- Increase enrollment in STEM courses in secondary education
- Increase degree completion in STEM disciplines at colleges and universities
- Educate parents, students, counselors and educators on the importance of STEM education
- Develop measurements of success

Accomplishments

- Research Day at the Capitol (beginning of legislative sessions)
- Support of funding packages for Elementary Science Specialists (there are now 27 specialists)
- Technology Task Force (sub-committee of STEM Coalition) developed web-portal system (with Information Network of Arkansas) for STEM-related lesson plans
- Supported legislation for grants to STEM teachers to increase their salaries through private funding

Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing Arkansans for a Brighter Economic Future

- STEM Coalition Event Aims to Boost Arkansas Economy
- Thursday, Aug 30, 2007
- Governor Mike Beebe, partnering with the Arkansas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Coalition, convened a one-day conference to address conditions facing our State as it considers building and sustaining a workforce that can meet the STEM demands of business and industry into the next decade and beyond.

Current Activities

- Formalizing Arkansas STEM Coalition
 - Governance documents
 - 501(c)3 status filing
 - Funding
- Legislative Initiatives for 2011 Legislative Session
 - Enhanced support of Science Specialists
 - Elimination of “opt out” of Smart Core Curriculum
 - Differential pay for STEM educators
 - Elementary Science STEM Education degree program and implementation in Arkansas
 - Technology Infrastructure in Arkansas schools
 - Educational “Portal” for STEM Educators

STEM Coalition Activities

- Promoting new thinking about STEM Education methods to:
 - Teach Students, e.g., Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science
 - Train Teachers so graduates have greater skills in STEM
- Methods:
 - Attend national conferences, e.g., NASSMC, to learn what is happening in other states
 - Discussions with Deans of Colleges of Education
 - Discussions with P-12 educators

Conference on Education

Engaging America's Talent NSF Education Outreach Conference

Hosted by Arkansas EPSCoR
and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation



March 22 - 24, 2010
Peabody Hotel
Little Rock, Arkansas

<http://www.arkepscor.org/registrationEAT.html>

