

# K12 Initiative Report

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## BACKGROUND

In May of 2015, "Promotion and Development of SD in K12" was added to the Policy Counsel's list of strategic initiatives. This additional strategic goal is in support of the long-term goal of introducing children in primary through secondary (grades K-12) schools worldwide to the principles of systems through the study of system dynamics.

In December of 2015, a report summarizing state of the art system dynamics teaching in K12 in the US was posted to the SDS Forum and presented at the Winter policy counsel meeting. Several recommendations were made based on this report, including a formal request that the SD Awards Committee consider establishing an award for excellent work done in support of SD efficacy in K12 education. It was further noted that the award could be based on special collaboration, field practice, or published research.

In April of 2016, An SDS policy change was approved by PC vote to establish a "VP of K12 Education" position beginning in 2017 with a term of three years.

## NEW ACTIVITY

While attending the Creative Learning Exchange Systems Thinking & Dynamic Modeling Conference for K-12 Education in June, I was able to communicate the enthusiastic support of the SDS and the newly created VP K12 Education position as well as the possibility of an award recognizing excellence in K12 efficacy. Two outcomes resulted:

- 1) I requested that this community consider possible candidates for the SDS VP K12 Education position. It is critical that we fill this position with someone deeply familiar with ST/SD K12 activities and someone who will keep these issues in front of the SDS policy counsel. Lees Stuntz (a member of the SDS policy counsel nominating committee) was also present at the conference and is aware of the open position. Candidates will be considered and proposed through Lees.
- 2) Educators expressed an interest in extending the proposed SDS K12 efficacy award to include the development of innovative and successful K12 curriculum. I have brought this to the attention of Erling Moxnes, chair of the SDS Awards committee, for their consideration.

## NEXT STEPS

As future action items, I am recommending that:

- 1) The new VP K12 Education position be filled with the best possible candidate, and
- 2) A brief vision statement for how the System Dynamics Society will support the pre-college education community is established.
- 3) Other possible activities are included in the original report.