

Science & Innovation

Challenge Session

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Tue, 11/07/2017 - 10:30 am

This Challenge Session will facilitate discussion and sharing of best practices for the development of an effective Science & Technology Plan that aligns the state's research capacity to industry strengths. A few case studies will be presented. Discussion will include 1) strategies for the scope of an S&T plan and methods of development (e.g. in-house, consultant; 2) the role of the jurisdiction's State Committee in the development and implementation of the plan; 3) advocacy for science, technology and innovation funding, and involvement of the jurisdiction's economic development office, and 4) lessons learned.

Summary of Challenge Session:

Strategic planning is a good idea and necessary as part of the Federal funding application process. The key themes and best practices are summed up as follows:

1. Involve a variety of stakeholders – political stakeholders and their investment makes a huge difference in the ability to implement meaningful plans and achieving desired outcomes.
2. Take time (at least a year) for full development.
3. If possible, hire strategic planning experts or consultants. Seek out the experience of others.
4. Inventory State resources make sure to identify key and/or unique strengths.
5. Create an action plan for implementation – clear goals, timelines and accountability.
6. Flow of communication and follow up can keep plans on track. (Is it working?)
7. Create a plan that is adaptable and can change or be updated over time.