

PRESIDENT EMERITUS MASSEY USES CCPI-STEM TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



To Dr. Ed Massey, [Advanced Technological Education \(ATE\) grants](#) for innovative technician education programs are malleable launch pads for regional economic development.

Massey is president emeritus of [Indian River State College](#), which has had more than a dozen ATE grants from the [National Science Foundation](#).

Now as chair of the Southeast Regional Network of the [Community College Presidents' Initiative in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math \(CCPI-STEM\)](#), Massey meets with community college presidents to explain NSF's funding process.

During one-on-one conversations he points out that NSF not only expects two-year college faculty to have leadership roles in ATE grants, but that the federal science agency funds mentoring projects that help faculty prepare competitive proposals.

He also explains how NSF's expectation that community college faculty work in partnership with industry can spark new, more proactive interactions with employers.

He suggests community college leaders and faculty clearly convey this message to employers: "We are a resource for you for human development training. We are a resource for you for economic development training. Use us. That's what we're here for—to educate students to get high-skill jobs, which lead to sustainable wages."

His in-person conversations on behalf of CCPI-STEM are furthest along in Alabama. There he has focused on community colleges that have had one Advanced Technological Education grant or some other connection to National Science Foundation to encourage them to have faculty prepare new grant proposals.

Before reaching out to the community college presidents in Alabama, Massey conferred with the state community college association about new industrial activities and unmet workforce needs.

Next he talked with a representative of a large corporation with multiple Alabama facilities—all with community colleges near them. Then he shared what he learned with the presidents of those community colleges.

"I think that a big part of what we can do in CCPI-STEM is to bring the players together. If we can connect industry with community colleges, which are the principle providers of workforce training throughout the United States, then together they can jointly develop curriculum," Massey said.

Massey considers these types of collaborations critical to the future success not only of students and companies, but of community colleges. "Working together with industry to transform community college workforce programs is necessary to prepare people with the 21st century skills that companies are looking for," Massey said.

To talk with Massey about leveraging ATE grants for regional economic development email him at southeast@ccpi-stem.org.

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