

COLORADO GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE SUMMER INSTITUTE
COGA STAKEHOLDERS: LANDSCAPE DISCOVERY
IMPLEMENTING ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY
SUMMER 2010

Value-Concept: Passion for earth and its inhabitants

Definition:

- enthusiastic, engaging
- commitment to expose others to the “cool factor” of geography through sharing, teaching and learning
- intangible; you know it when you see it; unquantifiable

Statements – We envision a COGA that:

- encourages teaching and learning in creative and innovative ways.
- supports and recognizes excellence and enthusiasm in geography practices.
- inspires others to see the geography in everything.

Brian Brown
Sophia Linn
Michelle Sepulveda
Dan Snare
Rebecca Theobald

Ideas and Observations:

- negative geography education examples
- Joseph Kerski
- big value – tie to current affairs, concrete real life
- AP human geography teachers, growth area – these teachers are turned on by what is being taught, often have no geography background
- geography education graduate programs, geography graduate students, social science students
- connections between geography and other disciplines
- travel / semester abroad, sister schools, sister cities
- individual experts

Value-Concept: Support

Definition:

- just-in-time delivery
- ongoing professional development
- meets needs of a variety of share holders

Statements – We envision a COGA that:

- has website resources of high quality, current aligned with standards and relevant.
- ongoing professional development to develop geographic skills, concepts, and leadership.
- assists and advocates for quality geographic education at the state level, supporting districts, schools, and teachers in improving geographic literacy, and supports students by providing on-loan resources, speakers, geography bee, and technology.

Joan Brownlee

Deann Bucher

Chris Elnicki

David Palmer

Dee Dee Von der Lage

Ideas and Observations:

- connect with other teacher organizations
- library of geographic materials
- links to other resources
- assessment (formative)
- advertise our own work
- legislative contacts
- undergraduates involved in classrooms, events
- create speaking points and a common video to share with school boards
- geography fair (undergraduate)

Value-Concept: Smart Growth

Definition:

- capacity – network, geographically, state
- competency, open, transparent, more in than out
- buy in for the mission
- teacher leaders, higher education, preservice
- social network
- resources
- quality (objective) over quantity
- sustainable

Statements – We envision a COGA that:

- is an inspiring magnet that attracts passionate teachers , higher education professors, and preservice people all over Colorado in support of a geographic alliance.
- has a strategic plan that clearly articulates goals and systematically uses efficient and effective methods to support student learning.
- builds a core and continues to grow by attracting teachers and others to help support implementation of standards (the gap).

Brenda Barr

Jimmy Dunn

Rick Gindele

Daniel Rirdan

Ideas and Observations:

- use existing resources and organizations
- look at successful grassroots / nonprofit growth models
- develop partnerships (such as the Colorado Council for Economic Education)
- develop funders

Value-Concept: Collaboration within the classroom, outside the classroom, beyond the classroom

Definition:

- working together toward a common goal – sharing ideas
- the collective effort is better than the individual in isolation
- continually improving, open to criticism, suggestions, and feedback, revising and improving, feedback loop, valuing multiple points of view, consider impact on whole system

Statements – We envision a COGA that:

- fosters partnerships in which the product is greater than the sum of its parts.
- focuses its efforts on the achievement of common goals through the sharing of ideas and belief in the process.
- fosters an environment that evaluates its effectiveness through collaboration with members, participants, organizations, institutions, and the community.

Erik Eckhoff

Steve Jennings

Debbie Pearce

Karen Sprafke

Mark Weatherley

Ideas and Observations:

- online, interactive (wiki) with “tags”
- google docs
- structure to help small groups of teachers work on projects, ideas, etc.
- professional development → online, self-serve modules
- model teachers/resources that could fit into a district’s existing professional learning community / professional learning team structure

Value-Concept: Exploration

Definition:

- investigations of the physical and human environments of Colorado and beyond
- discovery of new experiences in geography for Colorado students and educators
- finding alternative ways of promoting geography in Colorado

Statements – We envision a COGA that:

- promotes a collaborative environment in which educators can explore alternative pedagogies.
- encourages educators and students to experiment with a field- and geography-based curriculum.
- delivers opportunities for educators and students to invent new applications of geography.

Casey Allen

Karen Gibbs

Zack Hutcheson

Ideas and Observations:

- explore funding options (Gates Foundation, Edutopia)
- public education business coalition
- repackage geography to be more urgent (promotional campaign)
- career pathways
- internships with mining companies, companies that do geography
- innovation grants or example programs
- excellence and equity – reach all schools
- Google Sketch Up – funding or collaboration
- Garmin
- Digital Globe (take images or Google Earth)

Value-Concept: Connections

Definition:

- linking people and resources
- relevance to student experience and transferable to their future
- develops relationships

Statements – We envision a COGA that:

- is a hub linking people and resources in order to further geographic literacy.
- shows the relevance of geography to engage kids so that they can use it in their future.
- develops relationships between geography and other content areas across grade levels P-13.

Barry Cartwright

Steve Foster

Unity Hartman

Nancy Latka

Teri LeFebre

Ideas and Observations:

- National Council for Geographic Education
- International Baccalaureate Coordinators
- National Council for the Social Studies / Colorado Council for the Social Studies (Chris Elnicki)
- Colorado Council for Economic Education
- Colorado Association of Science Teachers
- Colorado Science Education Network (Barry Cartwright)
- Colorado Council for Environmental Education
- National Geographic Society
- CCRA / PEBC [?]
- COGA Participants
- libraries
- shared lesson plans (Denver Public Schools, Colorado Springs District 11)
- school boards, districts
- preservice teachers and students
- teachers, “professional learning communities”
- administrators
- coffee with “congress”, State Board of Education, legislators, lobby/special interest
- Marcia Neil, Martha Riley (720-529-0296), Salazar, Andy Kerr
- State Parks / Forest Service / National Park Service
- higher education students to speak to students P-12
- charities (Steps Ahead, Peace)
- newspapers
- granting institutions and foundations
- GIS Colorado