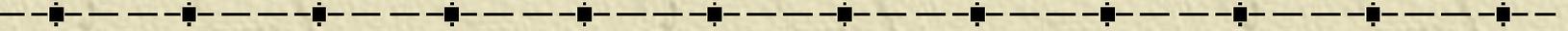


West Virginia: Challenges

- ✦ Limited state funds
- ✦ Long-term debt (e.g., pensions)
- ✦ Competing policy priorities
- ✦ Lack of short-term research results
- ✦ Small, relatively disengaged constituency
- ✦ Perception of research as a federal issue
- ✦ Disconnect between research and economic development

A State as a Laboratory



“There must be power in the States and the Nation to remold, through experimentation, our economic practices and institutions to meet changing social and economic needs....It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous State may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory, and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country.”

—Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis

West Virginia: Opportunities

- ✦ EPSCoR (1980—present)
- ✦ *A Vision Shared* economic development plan (2001)
- ✦ West Virginia Research Challenge Fund (2002)
- ✦ Governor's Commission on Graduate Study in STEM fields (2005)

EPSCoR: Details

- ✦ \$9 million RII (research infrastructure improvement) grant—leveraged \$150 million in related research investment (2001-2004)
- ✦ State Advisory Council with representation from public and private higher education, business, nonprofit organizations, and government
- ✦ Strategic statewide focus on strengths (the “triad” of information science, molecular life sciences, and nanoscience/engineering)
- ✦ Increased awareness among policymakers, campus officials, media, general public
- ✦ www.wvepscor.org

A Vision Shared: Details

- ✦ Statewide economic development plan
- ✦ Broadly representative
- ✦ Analysis of demographics, economics, and existing strengths
- ✦ Intellectual Infrastructure
- ✦ New Economy
- ✦ www.visionshared.com

Research Challenge Fund: Details

- ✦ 0.5% of video lottery net revenue (\$4 million in FY 2005)
- ✦ EPSCoR state matching funds
- ✦ Multi-year, attenuating project funding
- ✦ Linked to institutional strengths and state needs
- ✦ Undergraduate research
- ✦ Graduate fellowships
- ✦ Governor's School for Math and Science
- ✦ <http://www.wvepscor.org/programs-New.htm>

Graduate Study Commission: Details

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- ✦ Prompted by West Virginia's low ranking on key indicators of S&T capacity
 - ✦ 14 members (Governor, Chancellor, Economic Development Director, university provosts)
 - ✦ Coordination between K-12 and higher education (seamlessness)
 - ✦ Increase in numbers of graduate students and post-doctorates
 - ✦ Increase in number of undergraduate national scholarship winners
 - ✦ Alignment with EPSCoR, Development Office

Lessons Learned

- ✦ Strong executive leadership
- ✦ Committed legislative support
- ✦ Alignment of research and economic development
- ✦ Stable funding source for research
- ✦ Collaboration among universities