

College Readiness Initiative (CRI)

CRI TIMELINE

June 2006	Launch of the CRI
January 2007	Convened the CRI Working Group
February 2007	Secretary Spellings attends CRI CEO meeting
March 2007	CEO Regional Meeting builds support for CRI
November 2007	First Louisville site visit
April 2008	Institute for Strategic Investment in Education at Harvard
June 2008	First meeting of the Louisville BLE
July 2008	First Philadelphia site visit
September 2008	StrategicEdSolutions.org goes online
February 2009	Charles Reed (CSU) & David Jones (Humana, Inc.) become CRI co-chairs

The College Readiness Initiative (CRI) brings business and higher education together to promote college readiness, access, and success for underserved populations, particularly in science and math. The CRI utilizes a unique cross-section of prominent corporate, higher education, and foundation leaders to advocate for educational change.

In 2009, the CRI will continue to advance many of the efforts underway, including work in Philadelphia and Louisville. These member-led local projects engage with individual communities and bring together local business, education, and school-district leaders to develop solutions to their specific education challenges. The further buildout of the complementary site, StrategicEdSolutions.org™ also reflects this tailored approach to education solutions. Developed to help corporate and other philanthropists invest strategically in education, it features profiles of effective, individual education programs and a compendium of resources and strategies of what works in education.

RECENT MAJOR MILESTONES

BHEF committed to working with Louisville, KY in November 2007 to improve educational attainment leading toward a college degree. Specifically, BHEF is guiding the Business Leaders for Education (BLE) in advocating for and developing a community-wide education improvement plan.

In 2008, BHEF expanded CRI work to Philadelphia, under the guidance of BHEF members Win Churchill, general partner at SCP Private Equity Management, L.P. and the late Constantine Papadakis, then-president of Drexel University. Their work sought the development of a network of charter schools committed to improving students' college readiness and access, measuring their performance in this area, and sharing best practices and lessons learned.

BHEF launched StrategicEdSolutions.org in September 2008 as a resource for what works in education. The site features over three dozen programs and numerous resources.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE CRI

- Build out StrategicEdSolutions.org with further research on college success and potential case studies.
- Collaborate with business, education, and municipal government in Louisville to develop a community education plan for persistent P-16 education challenges.
- Connect Philadelphia stakeholders in order to bring business resources into schools, highlight top-performing charter schools, and develop strategies to network with the school district.
- Use lessons distilled from CRI activities to advocate at state and federal levels.

For more information about the CRI, visit www.bhef.com.

BHEF is an organization of Fortune 500 CEOs, prominent college and university presidents, and foundation leaders working to advance innovative solutions to our nation's education challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness.