21st Century Skills: How can you prepare students for the new Global Economy?

Charles Fadel
Global Lead, Education
Cisco Systems, Inc.

OECD/CERI
Paris, May 2008
Agenda

• What is the Partnership for 21st Century Skills?
• Why are 21st Century Skills so important?
• What is the Framework for 21st Century Skills?
• What can we do?
Success to Date

Iowa, North Carolina, Maine, Massachusetts, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin
“This is a story about ... whether an entire generation of kids will fail to make the grade in the global economy because they can’t think their way through abstract problems, work in teams, distinguish good information from bad, or speak a language other than [their own].”

*How to Build a Student for the 21st Century*, TIME Magazine, December 18, 2006
Of interest across the world

RSA
working to remove the barriers to social progress

Le Monde de L’Éducation

NZCER

APEC
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
Why are 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Skills so important?
## Workforce Requirements Survey

### Basic Knowledge/Skills
- English Language (spoken)
- Reading Comprehension (in English)
- Writing in English (grammar, spelling, etc.)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Government/Economics
- Humanities/Arts
- Foreign Languages
- History/Geography

### Applied Skills
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Oral Communications
- Written Communications
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Diversity
- Information Technology Application
- Leadership
- Creativity/Innovation
- Lifelong Learning/Self Direction
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Ethics/Social Responsibility

Source: “Are they really ready to work?” report by the Conference Board, P21 et al
“We are currently preparing students for jobs and technologies that don’t yet exist... in order to solve problems that we don’t even know are problems yet.”

“Did you know”, widely circulated YouTube posting
What is the Framework for 21st Century Skills?
21st Century Skills Framework
Core Subjects
• Native Language/Reading
• World Language(s) incl. English
• Arts
• Geography
• History
• Mathematics
• Science
• Government/Civics

21st Century Themes
• Global Awareness
• Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial literacy
• Civic Literacy
• Health Literacy
Learning & Innovation Skills

- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Creativity & Innovation
- Communication & Collaboration
Information, Media & Technology Skills

- Information Literacy
- Media Literacy
- ICT (Information, Communications & Technology) Literacy
21st Century Skills Framework

Life & Career Skills

• Flexibility & Adaptability
• Initiative & Self-Direction
• Social & Cross-Cultural Skills
• Productivity & Accountability
• Leadership & Responsibility
What’s new about 21st Century Skills?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Understanding of Coverage</th>
<th>New Areas of Emphasis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills for EVERYONE</td>
<td>Innovation and Creativity Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and Career Skills for EVERYONE</td>
<td>Information, Media and Technology Skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21st Century Support Systems

- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information, Media, and Technology Skills
- Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes
- Life and Career Skills

- Standards and Assessments
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Professional Development
- Learning Environments
What can we do?
1. Develop or Support your Country’s initiatives

2. Stay current on P21 via http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/

3. Contribute and participate via http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/Route21
What is Cisco doing for Education?

- Cisco Networking Academies: 165+ countries, 10,000 academies, 2M graduates
- 21S program: Mississippi, Louisiana
- Global Education Initiatives: Jordan, Rwanda

To learn more, and to access Cisco’s white paper:
http://newsroom.cisco.com/education/

Also, see paper on Education and Economic Growth at
The Internet Is Changing the Way We Work, Live, Play, and Learn℠