Strategic Planning Group #3

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Group #3 saw as its task identifying problems that constitute promising areas of concentration for the College. The group organized its conversation around the goal of identifying problems of importance to education for which the Penn State College of Education had particular expertise to contribute. The identified problems would be ones that would position (or solidify the position of) the College as a national or international leader on particularly important current issues.

The problems we identified are categorized in the following table.

Problems centering on STEM education abound. Responses might include: addressing the shortage of qualified STEM teachers; enhancing the mathematical, science, and technological knowledge of teachers; developing and evaluating technological approaches to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science; deepening the field's understanding of how mathematics and science are learned; and developing mathematics, science, and technological literacy in a broad range of settings.

Problems centering on the socio-emotional include problems of motivation to learn and problems of bullying in schools.

Problems related to biological indices include investigating relationships between biological measures and student achievement.

Problems related to teacher education include providing statewide leadership in responding to the state board mandates on teacher certification, enhancing coordination of teacher education across the University, developing work within the disciplines that helps teachers develop the subject matter knowledge they can productively use in their teaching. This focus includes the need to develop close relationships with policymakers at the state level so that they know what knowledge the Penn State College of Education can provide.

Problems related to evaluating technology uses center on the often unexamined stance that technology is good or bad without actually testing its value in a systematic and scholarly fashion. Policymakers and schools are in great need of guidance on this issue and Penn State, in collaboration with school partners, could offer much in this area.

Finally, in order to address these important issues, there is a need across the College to develop the capacity for understanding, appreciating, and building on the strength of differences among individuals. This goal would address not only the traditional categories associated with diversity but the host of other differences among individuals.

Addressing Problems & Developing Solutions

	Collaborators	Funding Sources
STEM	IST Eberly Engineering	
Literacy	Within College Psychology HHD	
Socio-emotional	HHD Prevention Center Psychology	
Biological Index	Bio Behavioral Health Psychology HHD Hershey	
Teacher Education	Arts & Architecture Agriculture Commonwealth Campuses The Disciplines Political Entities Schools	
Evaluating Technology	STEM Schools	
Understanding / Appreciating / Building on the Strength of Differences		