

Archived Information

Speaker biographies

Third Meeting, February 2-3, 2006

The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education

Session 5

"Innovative Public/Private Sector Models"

Rollie Otto

Roland J. "Rollie" Otto joined the Berkeley Lab as a postdoc in nuclear science and then a chemist in the Energy and Environment Division. In 1983, he was asked to serve as chair of the "Lab Co-op Committee," an early attempt to work with students on careers in science. Otto was given \$15,000 to support six students and to query six teachers about what the Lab could do to help them. His research led to the Department of Energy's highly successful National Teacher Research Associate program of the 1990s.

In 1988, the Center for Science and Engineering Education (CSEE) was established at the Lab, with Otto as its director. Otto's portfolio in education includes two years as assistant director of the Lawrence Hall of Science, executive director of the California Science Project, and consultant to the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, whose report served as a blueprint for today's state public school instruction.

Charles Reed

The Chancellor of the California State University is the chief executive officer of the country's largest senior system of public higher education. He provides leadership to 44,000 faculty and staff and 405,000 students on 23 campuses and seven off-campus centers. The CSU, which spans the entire state of California, has an annual budget of more than \$5 billion.

The California State University currently offers more than 1,150 bachelor's degree programs, 750 master's programs, and 26 joint doctoral programs in 240 areas. CSU prepares the majority of the state's new public school teachers and 10 percent of the nation's K-12 instructors. Each year, nearly as many people graduate with bachelor's degrees from the CSU as from all other universities and colleges in the state combined.

Dr. Reed has also written and spoken widely on education, finance, management, governance, and the politics of education. He has served internationally and nationally as a consultant, conference leader, and keynote speaker on education and related subjects. Most recently, he served as a consultant to the rebuilt Kuwait University.

Monica Poindexter

Monica L. Poindexter is the Associate Director of Corporate Diversity & College Programs at Genentech, founder of the biotechnology industry in the US with a quarter-century track record of delivering on the promise of biotechnology. Today, Genentech is among the world's leading biotech companies, with 12 protein-based products on the market that address serious or life-threatening medical conditions, and 30 projects in the pipeline. Poindexter has worked at Genentech for 5 ½ years in various capacities related to workforce development, college programs and recruitment of new employees. Her contributions in the area of workforce development have led to key partnerships and the development of signature programs such as the Biotechnology Certificate Program. This program is made possible through a partnership with the Department of Labor, which awarded a \$2 million grant to provide training to local workers for jobs in biotechnology. Monica was also instrumental in developing Genentech's first formal Operations Rotation Development Program (ORDP) and is a member of ORDP Steering Committee. Ms. Poindexter is the co-founder of the Genentech Scholars Program, which to date has awarded \$218,000 in scholarships and provided over 50 internships to Genentech Scholars throughout the Bay Area.

Poindexter actively participates in fueling the pipeline of diverse talent by tapping into professional organizations such as NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), NOBCHE (National Organization of Black Chemical Engineers), Black MBA, and Hispanic MBA organizations. In her spare time she is involved in developing and delivering Business & Professional Etiquette workshops to Bay Area community organizations and is a member of the President's Council for Skyline Community College in San Mateo. Ms. Poindexter also serves as an Advisory Board Member for the UC Berkeley SAGE Scholars Program.

Ms. Poindexter holds a BA in Sociology & Law and Society from University of California at Davis, and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Organizational Development from the University of San Francisco. Monica is also an INROADS Alumna.