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# NASA Explorer Schools

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## *NES Guide to Developing Partnerships & Sustainability: Utilizing a Systems Approach*

July 30, 2007



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# LETTER FROM THE NES PROJECT MANAGER

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Dear NASA Explorer School (NES) Team Members:

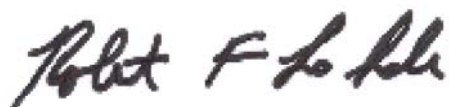
As a NASA Explorer School, your school has partnered with NASA to provide unique professional development opportunities for educators and administrators, exciting classroom activities and challenges for students, and special opportunities for family members and the community. Throughout the three-years of the Explorer Schools partnership, educators and administrators have collaborated with NASA's Office of Education, Mission Directorates, and Field Centers to build science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content knowledge, enhance family involvement, increase the use of inquiry instruction, increase the use of instructional technology, and integrate these components into school improvement plans.

The Office of Education at NASA perceives partnerships as a valuable strategy to help education stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels rethink and restructure learning environments to improve STEM teaching and learning. NASA is only one of thousands of government agencies, businesses and non-profits that realize the importance of STEM education. It is not only crucial to NASA, but the country as a whole that we develop a future workforce prepared for the challenges of STEM professions.

This guide is being provided to you to communicate pertinent information relevant to partnership building. NES has worked with one of its partners, Paragon TEC, to create a roadmap to assist you in the development of partnerships to sustain the NES efforts at your school beyond NASA's initial three-year commitment. This document provides a systems approach to partnership development that is adapted from a creative blend of real world working systems and a legacy of research-based models that have evolved from over 30 years of experience by partnership practitioners nationwide. Additionally, best practices and lessons learned are offered to help your school/school district strengthen, expand and sustain existing and new partnerships.

NES leadership commends you on your dedication to providing high-quality STEM education for students, and is committed to supporting your efforts to secure and sustain partnerships involving a broad base of local, regional, and national STEM stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Rob LaSalvia  
NES Project Manager (Acting)

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# Acknowledgements

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Finally, we wish to acknowledge the NASA SEMAA Project model for developing partnerships that served as an example of a real-world, working system and heavily influenced the systems approach customized by Paragon TEC for the NASA Explorer Schools. Likewise, we acknowledge the National Association of Partners in Education (NAPE), whose pioneering efforts in the area of partnership development influenced this guide.

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# Table of Contents

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<b>ONE:</b>	<b>The Role of Partnerships in Education .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TWO:</b>	<b>NES Systems Approach to Partnership Development .....</b>	<b>9</b>
	STAGE 1: Developing an Annual Partnership and Sustainability Plan .....	13
	STAGE 2: Identifying and Researching Potential Partners.....	16
	STAGE 3: Developing and Communicating Partnership Vision, Goals, and Objectives .....	19
	STAGE 4: Building Relationships with Potential Partners .....	22
	STAGE 5: Managing Partnership Agreements .....	25
	STAGE 6: Documenting Partnership Contributions and Assessing Partnership Impact.....	28
	STAGE 7: Monitoring, Evaluating, and Formally Recognizing Partnership Successes .....	30
<b>THREE:</b>	<b>Lessons Learned/Best Practices .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>FOUR:</b>	<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>36</b>
	Appendix 1: NES Annual Partnership & Sustainability Plan.....	37
	Appendix 2: Mapping the Community to Identify Potential Partners ....	51
	Appendix 3: Checklist of Common Educational Partnership Contributions.....	57
	Appendix 4: NES Potential STEM Partner Profile .....	59
	Appendix 5: Developing a Partnership Vision .....	62
	Appendix 6: NES Template for Setting Partnership Goals and Objectives .....	64
	Appendix 7: Partnership Steering Committee .....	66
	Appendix 8: NES Partnership Commitment Form.....	67
	Appendix 9: NES Volunteer Form .....	68
	Appendix 10: Documenting Partnership Contributions and Assessing Impact .....	70
	Appendix 11: Use of NASA Logo, Seal, and Logotype .....	71

