Regional Learning Ecologies

A Technology Roadmapping Exercise
A Society of Learning

- Develop a vision for the future
- Develop a plan to achieve vision
- Formation of Leadership Networks
- Development of Supporting Resources
- Identification of Necessary Policies and Investments
- Deliverables and Evaluation
The Visioning Process

- Set aside existing systems and constraints
- Begin with a lifelong educational needs assessment
  - For individuals
  - For regions (workforce development, etc.)
- Identify both existing and needed resources
The Visioning Process (cont)

- Develop a seamless web of learning opportunities (“ubiquitous learning”)
- Coordination (linkages) of existing learning infrastructure
- Linking communities to learning
- Technology-intensive education (“knowledge networks”)
- Public-private partnerships and financing
An Alternative Approach

Strategic Planning for a Society of Learning

Technology Roadmapping for a Learning Ecology
Roadmapping Exercise

- Educational Needs Assessment
- Resource Mapping
- Gap Analysis
- Development of Roadmap
Educational Needs Assessment

- What skills and knowledge are necessary for individuals to thrive in the 21st Century knowledge society?
- What skills and knowledge are necessary for regional populations in a knowledge-driven global economy?
Ideas

- Might compare this exercise to other periods in the nation’s history
  - 1776, Jefferson, new democracy
  - 1860, Land-Grant, industrial revolution
  - 2003, knowledge-driven global society

- Cognitive science? Technology?

- Change:
  - Outsourcing blue-collar labor
  - Outsource high-tech services
Resource Mapping

- Present resources
  - K-12 schools
  - Higher education
  - Libraries, museums, other cultural resources
  - Workplace training programs
  - Informal education (4-H, Scouts, etc.)

- Other resources (and constraints)
  - Public policies
  - Funding resources
Gap Analysis: What Is Missing?

- New types of institutions?
- New providers?
- New resources (e.g., “teachers”)
- New linkages?
- New policies?
- New investments?
- New culture?
A Roadmap for Michigan

What?
- A roadmap that provides a path to a learning ecology, i.e., one that evolves and adapts.

For whom?
- Governor? Head of nonprofit foundations?
- Existing educational institutions?
- Private sector?
Broader issues

- Shift from “public policy” to “market” dominated educational systems
- The **process** is more important than the product, since it might be a template for other regions (and nations).
Questions

- What are local resources for such an effort?
  - UM: SOI, Ed, Ford, LS&A, ?

- What could we reasonably be expected to develop in the 12-18 months available?
  - A broad template posing the vision and key questions?
  - A more focused set of recommendations for higher education (a Michigan version of the California Master Plan)
Questions

- Where do we begin?...