

# Values Are Missing Ingredient

I read your article, “Four Critical Letters, Indiana Needs More STEM Workers,” in the latest issue of *BizVoice*® with great interest.

I agree with all you write, and you make several very good points. However, there is one question that I believe should be asked: Why has this happened here in Indiana and throughout the United States, while it is not happening in other nations that are far ahead of us in the STEM areas? If we can answer this question, honestly and without “sugarcoating,” maybe we can get to the root of the problem, and we may begin to turn things around.

In my opinion, the answer to the question posed above is our current values. Our current culture values entertainment, sports, partying and shopping. Our culture does not value hard work. It does not value a good “work ethic,” putting your head down and working. In fact, most young people struggle with focusing on the work that is in front of them. They are distracted by so many things around them, including texts, cell phones, videos, friends, etc.

The STEM areas are difficult areas of study. They all require focus, long hours and dedication to master. They are

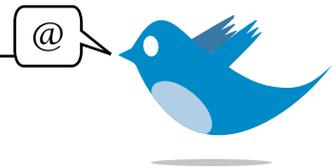
much more difficult to master and require a lot more effort than literature, history, art appreciation, etc.

Take a look at the nations that are far ahead of us in the STEM areas. China and India come to mind. The cultures in those nations emphasize hard work in the STEM areas, beginning in the elementary schools. The cultures in those nations do NOT emphasize spending enormous numbers of hours in entertainment, sports, partying and shopping, like we do in this country.

The solution to our problem of low achievement in STEM areas must begin with the young, those in K-12, and it must include a change in values. Let’s face it, those people who value partying and sports over hard work just aren’t going to succeed in the STEM areas. If we really want to succeed with this, we need to stop with the “lip service” and actually begin to change the culture that influences our young people.

Proficiency in the STEM areas requires hard work, and hard work must be embraced, not avoided, like it is so frequently today.

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## What’s Chirping on Tweet Street?

**The Indiana Chamber has over 7,200 Twitter followers. Are you on the list? Here are some examples of recent activity:**

### **@IndianaChamber**

IN State Board of Education votes UNANIMOUSLY to reaffirm support for Common Core & oppose legislative efforts to stop or slow! #CCSS

Chamber supports HB 1003 – School Choice Scholarships; parents should be able to access/choose the best schools for their children #INLegis

Kudos, @BallState. MT @PeteThePlanner: Students from Ball State seem to have their professionalism together from top to bottom. Cool to see.

Mr. President, it’s time to approve the Keystone Pipeline for more jobs, energy ow.ly/hoBUL #KeystoneXL

Continuing our celebration of School Choice Week, Marian U. prez Dan Elsener offers thoughts ow.ly/hg42d cc: @MUNewsroom #education

@indgop & @INDems leaders Eric Holcomb & Dan Parker to talk politics at March 13 Legislative Dinner ow.ly/h69mb #INLegis

Thanks to all those attending today’s health care reform conference at the Hyatt in Indy – presented by Ice Miller. #INHCR13

### **What others are saying about the Indiana Chamber:**

#CamCarter of the @IndianaChamber stands in support of #INtransit and offers to arrange rides for folks to experience transit firsthand. - @ASmithJones

@jbrantleyibrg Enjoy the State of the State tonight & I will be following @IndianaChamber from the official “Tweet Seat” on the front row! - @DavisMichaelR

Let’s connect at this years @IndianaChamber Health and Safety Conference. We will be at Booth 302. ow.ly/h4f5F - @LTCWorldwide

We’re very excited to keep the #breakthemonopoly convo going bright and early tomorrow with the @IndianaChamber! - @USChamberICW

Looking good! RT @IndianaChamber: As you may have seen, we launched a new logo in 2013 ow.ly/gDz0S ow.ly/gDz4t - @xiik

@IndianaChamber I appreciate your tweeting but please stop tweeting so much. A few tweets a day is enough. People will not stop following - @KyleBabcock

*Sorry Kyle. What can we say? We can’t help ourselves!*