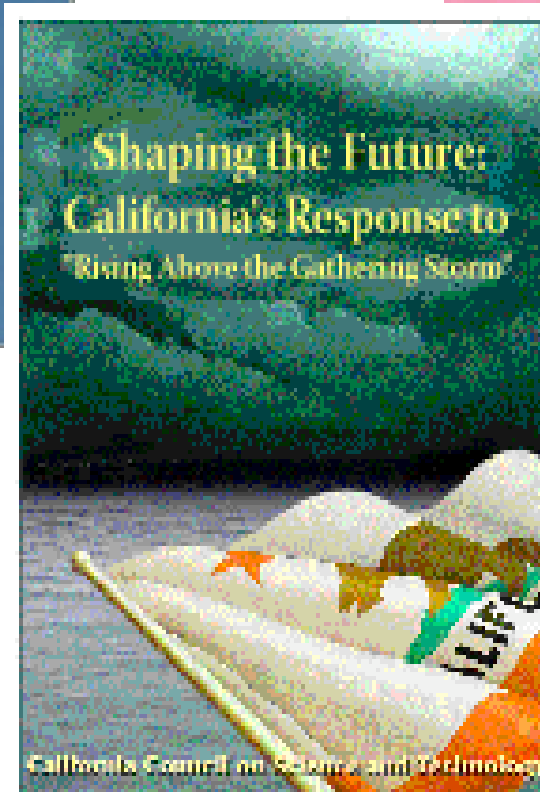
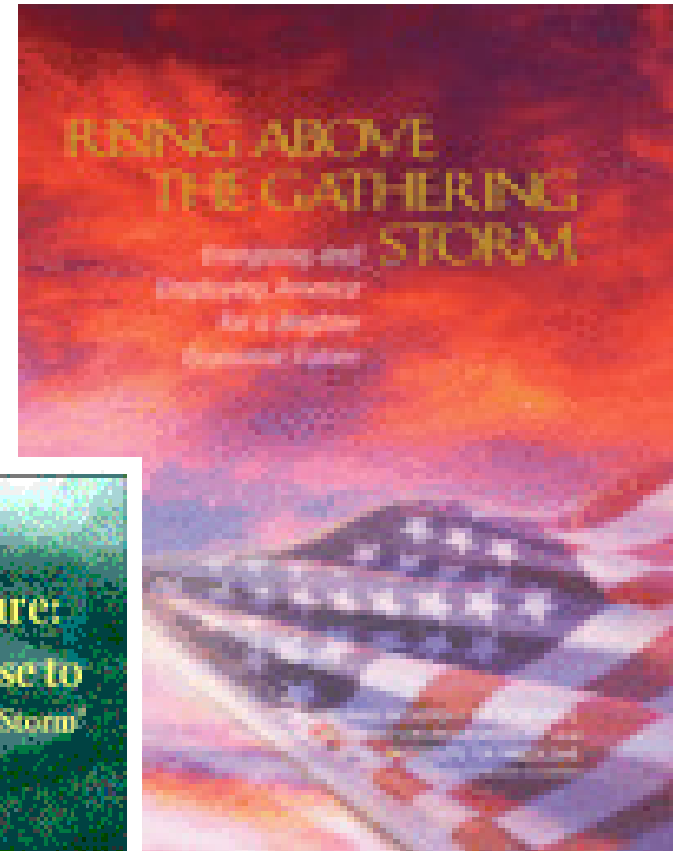
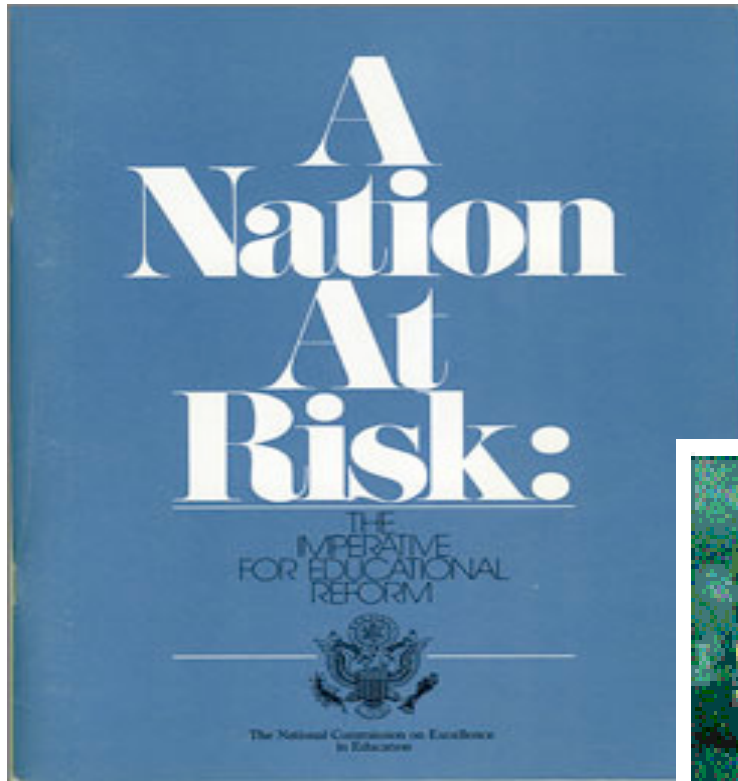


# Role of Education in American Competitiveness

AAS 2008 National Conference  
Pasadena California

Angela Phillips Diaz  
November 18, 2008

# Background



# Calls to Action

- “The educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a nation and as a people”
  - A Nation At Risk, April 1983
- “Although the US economy is doing well today, current trends...indicate that the US may not fare as well in the future without government intervention. This nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security... the US must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in S&T, and by sustaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries and the well-paying jobs they bring.”
  - Rising Above the Gathering Storm, October 2005

# Calls to Action

- “Increase California’s talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education...make California the most attractive setting in which to study and perform research so that we can develop, recruit, and retain the best and brightest students, scientists, and engineers from within the US and throughout the world...”
  - California Council on Science and Technology December 2006
- “Workforce Development is the Aerospace Community’s Top Challenge!”
  - Inside Aerospace May 2008

# Perspectives

- Teacher/Educator/Leader
- Undergraduate Student
- Business/Industry Leader
- Workforce Consortium Leader
- S&T Policy Leader

# Panel Discussion

- What Might Life in the US Be Like if It is Not Competitive in Science and Technology?
  - A Baseline Scenario: Narrowing Lead
  - A Pessimistic Case: Falling Decisively Behind
  - An Optimistic Case: Leading in Key Areas

# Next Steps

- “For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in generations, our children could face poorer prospects for jobs, healthcare, security, and overall standard of living than have their parents and grandparents. We owe our current prosperity, security, and good health to the investments of past generations. We are obliged to renew those commitments to ensure that the US people will continue to benefit from the remarkable opportunities being opened by the rapid development of the global economy.”
  - Rising Above the Gathering Storm
- If not us, who?
- If not now, when?