

Jim Stanton

Director, The Technology Initiative
Metro South West Regional Employment Board

In 1999 Jim began developing The Technology Initiative, the Metro S/W Regional Employment Board, to build business/education partnerships designed to increase the number of students from the region pursuing STEM degrees. The Technology Initiative has developed: (1) the nationally recognized Leadership Initiatives for Teaching and Technology (LIFT²) program which has enrolled 90 teacher externs over seven cohorts in 40 Massachusetts companies that have provided paid summer externships to these teachers and (2) a Saturday STEM Academy, in partnership with Olin College of Engineering and several local school systems and their METCO programs, to prepare and inspire up to 100 under-represented minority high school students to pursue STEM careers during the four year program;

In 2009 the LIFT² program was selected to participate in a national Teacher Externship retreat, hosted by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, as one of the ten "Best Practice" externship programs in the country.

Jim was a member of the Mass Technology Leadership Council's 2008 task force to rewrite the Massachusetts K-12 Instructional Technology Standards, and is a member of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, the Mass IT Collaborative Talent and Workforce Group and for the past two years a member of the Teachers21 Board of Directors.

Jim earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Boston College, and thereafter joined the national Teacher Corps and taught middle school in Lowell while earning a Masters in Urban Education also at BC. For the first fifteen years Jim worked in a variety of local and national public education settings, including as a consultant to Judge W. Arthur Garrity on parent involvement in Boston School Desegregation case.

Jim has ten years' experience in the private sector serving as treasurer and director of technology and eventually co-owner of a medium size Insurance Agency.