



December 2005 Newsletter

It's been a while since I sent up one of these occasional updates, so here's some of the latest. Check www.practicalstrategy.org for more. We'd love to hear from you to hear about your needs, tell you more about our work and partner organizations, and just to catch up. This update focuses on the clients and partner organizations I have been working with recently.

Check out [GMS Partners, Inc.](#) I've been privileged over the past two years to collaborate with Grace Sammon (author of *Creating and Sustaining Smaller Learning Communities* and *Battling the Hamster Wheel: Strategies for Making High School Reform Work*) on a range of high school reform projects. From state to district to school to classroom, we're working with clients nationally to cut through the rhetoric and build a base for lasting change. Most recently, our efforts with the National Academy Foundation and the Miami-Dade School District received an \$11 million smaller learning communities grant from the US Department of Education. We're also working in Sarasota, Florida to integrate their career and technical education programs with overall high school improvement efforts and workforce needs.

Check out [Public Works, LLC.](#) Another great strategic partner over the past year has been Eric Schnurer and his team at Public Works LLC. *Making good ideas work for the better* describes Public Works' unique capacity to help states implement innovative public policies. For example, in New Mexico, we worked closely with the Public Education Department to develop recommendations for improving customer service in teacher licensure, charter school support, and accountability and assessment communication and reporting. We're also working on education policy options from Pre-K to higher education for Governor's offices in two states.

Check out [Plexus Scientific Corporation.](#) Through the Plexus MOBIS contract, work with the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) continues, as the Core Competencies for Effective Grants Management: A Tool for Learn and Serve Grantees was distributed to grantees nation-wide. We are now testing a self-assessment questionnaire that helps grantees identify their strengths and weaknesses, and find assistance.

Check out [KaBOOM!](#) -- For the past decade, KaBOOM! has been an innovator in bringing corporate sponsors and community activists together toward the vision of "a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America." This exciting project focused on helping implement KaBOOM!'s new *Going to Scale* strategy -- translating bold vision to clear annual operating plans, regular performance reporting for tracking progress, and well-aligned organizational capacity building.

lots more going on, and we've assembled a great team to help you to develop and implement strategy, organizational and management issues, respond to customer needs, or seek funding. I'm also available at your conferences, facilitate workshops, and help lead strategy development and planning processes. Topics have included What Ails American Education and What to Do About It; Tenets of High School the Impact of Economic Change on Higher Education, and more! [Send me an email](#) if you'd like to /our upcoming projects!