



Subject Matter Expert Richard N. Vineyard, Ph.D.

Dr. Richard Vineyard is Lead Project Manager with the Pepper Professional Development (PD) team in PCG Education. His extensive experience in science education and assessment informs his work with the K-12 community, specifically in helping schools understand the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Dr. Vineyard works with state, district and school administrators to design and develop new instructional programs based on the NGSS. He also supports projects focused on the professional development of teachers in science and other Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education initiatives.

Expertise

- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) literacy
- Informal science education
- K-12 education
- K-12 professional development
- Common Core State Standards
- Education assessment
- Education program evaluation
- Professional development

Experience

Prior to joining PCG in 2015, Dr. Vineyard was Assessment Director of the Office of Assessment, Data, & Accountability Management for the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) where he worked to supervise the development and implementation of all state level assessments in Nevada. His career with the NDE spanned more than 15 years, during which time he worked on many statewide education initiatives including the development of science content standards and Nevada's first assessments in science. Dr. Vineyard was also instrumental in the development and revision of content standards in all areas and state level assessments in ELA, Math, Science and the Nevada Alternate Assessment for students with disabilities. While at NDE, he was involved in the development of, and amendments to, a large number of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) regulations governing the system of education in Nevada. Recently, Dr. Vineyard was an integral member of the Teachers and Leaders Council that state legislature created in 2012 to develop a new statewide system for the evaluation of teachers and administrators. The resulting system, the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, will be rolled out to state educators in 2015-2016.

Dr. Vineyard has more than 20 years of teaching experience, beginning in 1991 at Weber State University (WSU) where he worked with the Utah State Office of Education to develop programs in support of teachers' professional development focused on introducing teachers in grades 3-12 to national science education standards and the Utah Science Core Curriculum. These efforts resulted in the grant funded program, "The Teachers As Scientists Program," in 1995 that continues to operate today. He went on to establish a similar grant funded program, Nevada Educators Really Doing Science (NERDS), while teaching at the University of Nevada. NERDS focused on K-12 science teacher development and ran from 2000-2011.

Associations

Throughout his career, Dr. Vineyard has held multiple leadership roles within state and national councils dedicated to science education and professional development programs. Notably, he was director of the Nevada Math/Science Partnership (MSP) Program grant, which awarded up to \$1,000,000 annually to professional development programs across the state in support of better math and science teaching. Dr. Vineyard spent 15 years as director of the Nevada Science Olympiad Program, a program he helped found. He served as board member, president, and past-president to the Council of State Science Supervisors (CSSS); executive secretary of the Nevada State Science Teachers Association (NSSTA); and program chair and president of the Northern Rocky Mountain Education Research Association (NRMERA).

Publications and Presentations

Dr. Vineyard has presented at more than 50 education conferences, including the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) National Conference on Student Assessment in Maryland in 2013, and the International Association for Special Education in Spain in 2009. Among his selected publications, the article "New NCLB Science Requirements: What Will They Mean to States and Schools? In Current Developments in K-12 Education: Near and Longer Term Trends," was published by Thomson Publishing Group in 2007.

Education

A life-long scientist and educator, Dr. Vineyard earned a B.S. in Environmental Science from Washington State University and then went on to earn his M.S. in Biology at Central Washington University. His pursuit of knowledge led Dr. Vineyard to the University of Toronto where he earned his Ph.D. in Systematic Entomology.