

# STEM Education Coalition



December 22, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama  
Obama Transition Team  
451 6<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear President-Elect Obama:

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition extends to you our sincere congratulations upon your historic election to the presidency of the United States of America. We applaud your commitment and dedication to improving STEM education as demonstrated through your legislative record in this area in the Senate and the strong statements in support of STEM education you made repeatedly during your campaign. We look forward to working with your Administration on your agenda to make STEM education a national priority.

The STEM Ed Coalition is composed of advocates from diverse groups representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our Coalition has aggressively worked for years to raise awareness in the Congress, within the Federal government, and in other organizations about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the United States to remain the economic and technological leader of the 21<sup>st</sup> century global marketplace. Our Coalition believes that our nation must improve the way our students learn science, mathematics, technology and engineering and that the business, education, and STEM communities must work together to achieve this goal.

Our diverse members have been strong advocates, singly and cooperatively, for better STEM education programs at all levels—pre k-16, graduate, continuing education, and informal—at the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and other federal agencies with STEM related programs. We have been active on recent legislative efforts, such as the *America COMPETES Act*, consideration of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, and the *Higher Education Opportunity Act*, and have been vocal supporters of increased funding for STEM education related initiatives.

The STEM Education Coalition has also worked with stakeholders to address the under-representation of minority groups in STEM fields, and to strengthen the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by bringing high quality STEM students into the teaching field and by improving the content knowledge and professional development of current K-12 STEM teachers already in classrooms. We also strongly encourage the collaboration and coordination of all federal STEM education efforts to ensure that taxpayer dollars are well spent.

In these difficult economic times it is vitally crucial that we not lose sight of the importance of STEM education to our nation's future workforce, economy, and national security. All stakeholders must work together, deliberately and strategically, to address the challenges and opportunities in STEM education if we want to ensure that our students have critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. We look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you and your administration, and we invite you to learn more about the STEM Education Coalition by visiting [www.stemedcoalition.org](http://www.stemedcoalition.org), or by contacting James Brown, American Chemical Society, at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson, National Science Teachers Association, at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

3E Institute of West Chester University of PA  
Academy of Science-St. Louis  
Aerospace Industries Association  
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute  
Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies, Inc.  
American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Chemical Society  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Geological Institute  
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Museum of Natural History  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Arkansas STEM Coalition  
ASME Center for Public Awareness  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE)  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
ASTRA , The Alliance for Science & Engineering Research in America  
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce  
The Beanstalk Consulting Group, LLC  
Biophysical Society  
Buhach Colony Engineering Academy  
Business Higher Education Forum  
C-STEM.  
California Healthcare Institute  
The Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness (CASMIC)  
Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)

Center for Future Thinking  
Center for Minority Achievement in Science and Technology  
The Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Sciences Excellence  
Charlotte Mecklenburg School System  
Charlotte Area Science Network  
Chicago Educational Publishing  
Coalition for STEM in Massachusetts  
Colorado Technical University  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)  
Council For Elementary Science International (CESI)  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Creative Learning Systems  
Discovery Place, Inc., Charlotte, NC  
DV Crossroads --Deer Valley Unified School District  
EAST Initiative  
Ecological Society of America  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Engineers Without Borders-USA  
EnvironMentors  
ETS  
Exploratorium  
Funutation Tekademy LLC  
Grand Valley State University  
Hands On Science Partnership  
IEEE-USA  
Illinois State Board of Education.  
Information in Place  
Institute for Women in Trades, Technology & Science  
International Technology Education Association  
JETS  
Knowledge Alliance  
Lawrence Hall of Science  
LEARN Coalition  
LearnOnLine, Inc  
Maryland Science Center  
Math for America  
Montage Education Technology  
Mosaica Education, Inc.  
Museum of Science, Boston  
Museum of Science and Industry  
NASA STEM ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION  
NASULGC, A Public University Association  
National Association for Research in Science Teaching  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Center for Technological Literacy  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing

National Defense Industrial Association  
National Education Association  
National Girls Collaborative Project  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
National Science Education Leadership Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
New York State Technology Education Association  
Northwestern University Office of STEM Education Partnerships  
The Ohio Academy of Science  
Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition  
OSGC (NASA) Invention Innovation Centers Project  
OSA  
Parametric Technology Corporation (PTC)  
Pathways into Science  
PBS  
P3OPLES FOUNDATION  
PolyVision  
Project Exploration  
Project Lead the Way  
PTC-MIT Consortium  
SACNAS [Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science]  
SAE International  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers  
Society of Women Engineers  
TechNet  
Technology Student Association  
Tennessee Scholars  
Thornburg Center for Space Exploration  
Triangle Coalition  
Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc.  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of Kansas  
Urban STEM Strategy Group  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Vernier Software & Technology