

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

May 27, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition commends you for your dedicated and impassioned support of STEM education and the steps your Administration is taking to reinvigorate basic and applied research and education.

We applaud your April 27 address to the National Academy of Sciences and your call to dramatically improve student achievement in math and science. We support your efforts to encourage states to improve the quality and supply of math and science teachers and modernize and renovate high school labs. We also appreciate your call for rigorous content standards in math and science and your support of the Robert Noyce Scholarship program.

Our Coalition stands ready to assist with the Administration's efforts to create partnerships among stakeholders to support K-12 and undergraduate STEM education and to engage in a public awareness and outreach campaign to inspire young people to excel in STEM and pursue careers as scientists, engineers and innovators.

As we go forward on these and other initiatives to increase student achievement in the STEM areas we hope you, Secretary Duncan, and OSTP Chief John Holdren will renew the promise to all students that they have a right to a world class education in STEM that begins with common standards, researched-based curricula, and teachers and administrators prepared to provide them with the most effective 21st Century content and teaching strategies.

We also strongly urge you to pursue efforts to encourage more women and minorities to pursue STEM careers.

For more than five years now the STEM Education Coalition has worked aggressively to raise awareness in Congress and with other organizations about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century. The Coalition advocates for strengthening of STEM-related programs for educators and students and increased federal investments in STEM education. We also support robust federal investments in basic scientific research to inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields. Members of the STEM Coalition believe 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.

If we can provide you with any additional information on our Coalition, please contact Coalition Co-chairs, James Brown with the American Chemical Society at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson with the National Science Teachers Association at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

After-School Corporation (TASC)
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies, Inc.
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Chemical Society
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Physics
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
American Statistical Association
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association for Computing Machinery
AVS: Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce
Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness (CASMIC)
Chemawa Indian School (BIA)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Colorado Technical University
Council on Undergraduate Research
Design Science
EAST Initiative
Education Development Center, Inc.
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Entertainment Industries Council, Inc.
Exploratorium
GeoTech Center @ Del Mar College
Hamilton County/Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Sciences Excellence
In Reach, Inc.
Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)
International Technology Education Association
LearnOnLine, Inc
Math for America
Metropolitan Cleveland Consortium for STEM –Cleveland HUB- Ohio STEM Learning Network
Museum of Science-Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Commission on Teaching & America's Future
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM)
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

National Science Education Leadership
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
National Venture Capital Association
New York Hall of Science
Ohio Technology Education Association
Parametric Technology Corporation
PASCO Scientific
Pathways into Science
Philadelphia Academies, Inc.
PTC-MIT Consortium
SACNAS
SAE International
Science Companion
Society for Research in Child Development
Society of Women Engineers
SouthEast Educational, Inc.
STEM School Administrators Association
STEMES
Technology Student Association
Thornburg Center for Space Exploration
Triangle Coalition
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Urban STEM Strategy Group
Vernier Software & Technology

cc: Arne Duncan, U. S. Secretary of Education
John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology
Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy