

STEM Education Coalition



December 22, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama
Obama Transition Team
451 6th 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 21st 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 21st 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, 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