

# STEM Education Coalition



*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

CC: Chairs and Ranking Members House and Senate Appropriations Committees

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Reid, McConnell, and Boehner:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we commend you for your leadership in swiftly formulating the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and strongly support your efforts to ensure that this important legislation contains bold investments in STEM education and science research and development that will help both stimulate our economy and provide for the long-term competitiveness of the American workforce. We are hopeful that Congress will expeditiously debate and enact this vitally important bill.

As you know, our Coalition is composed of a diverse range of organizations from all sectors of the workforce, including knowledge workers, researchers, educators, teacher educators, scientists, engineers, technicians, and representatives from the business community. We believe that excellence in STEM education at all levels, among all populations, is vital to our nation's short- and long-term economic prosperity, global competitiveness and security.

There are a number of provisions in the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that demonstrate a strong commitment to strengthening our nation's STEM education pipeline, including:

- \$3 billion in additional funding for the National Science Foundation, including:
  - \$60 million for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program
  - \$40 million for the Math and Science Partnership Program

- \$1 billion to expand, modernize, and repair research equipment shared by institutions of higher education and other scientists, engineers, and researchers to assure the adequate preparation of the next generation of STEM graduates who select careers in teaching and other critical areas
- \$140 billion in additional funding for the Department of Education, including:
  - A provision encouraging Local Education Agencies to spend a portion of the \$14 billion allocated in the bill for K-12 school construction activities for the “modernization, renovation, or repair of science and engineering laboratory facilities”
  - \$1 billion for classroom education technology, including computer and science labs and teacher technology training
  - \$100 million through Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grants to recruit new teachers through alternate and traditional training routes to meet the shortage of math and science teachers
  - Substantial additional funding at the Department of Energy, NIH, NASA, NOAA, NIST, and the US Geological Survey that will help modernize facilities across the nation, increase their research capacity, and therefore assure the next generation of well-prepared educators, scientists, and engineers in the STEM fields

Further, to enable more children to compete in this global economy, we are hopeful that a renewed focus on quality STEM education will be considered when additional Title I and IDEA dollars are spent at the local level.

We are pleased that Congress is taking action to live up to many of the promises established by the *America COMPETES Act*, the *Higher Education Opportunity Act* and other legislation that has established STEM education as a top national priority. We look forward to working with you to keep our nation competitive and to swiftly enact this legislation.

If we can provide you any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

*3e Institute of West Chester University of PA*  
*Aerospace Industries Association*  
*Allegheny-Singer Research Institute*  
*American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education*  
*American Association of Physicists in Medicine*  
*American Association of Physics Teachers*  
*American Association of University Women (AAUW)*  
*American Astronomical Society*  
*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 for Engineering Education*  
*American Society of Civil Engineers*  
*American Statistical Association*  
*ASME Center for Public Awareness*  
*Association for Computing Machinery*  
*Association for Science Teacher Education*  
*Association of Science Materials Centers*  
*ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America*  
*Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce*  
*Biological Sciences Curriculum Study*  
*Biophysical Society*  
*Biotechnology Institute*  
*Business-Higher Education Forum*  
*Campaign for Environmental Literacy*  
*Center for Minority Achievement in Science and Technology*  
*Chicago Educational Publishing*  
*Computing Research Association*  
*Council of Undergraduate Research*  
*DC Environmentors*  
*DV Crossroads--Deer Valley Unified School District*  
*EAST Initiative*  
*Education Development Center, Inc.*  
*Engineers Without Borders-USA*  
*ETS*  
*Exploratorium*  
*Hamilton County/Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Science Excellence*  
*Hands on Science Partnership*  
*IEEE-USA*  
*Information in Place, Inc.*  
*International Technology Education Association*  
*Iowa Math and Science Coalition*  
*Knowledge Alliance*  
*Maryland Science Center*  
*Math for America*  
*Museum of Science and Industry*  
*Museum of Science, Boston*  
*National Center for Technological Literacy*  
*National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM)*  
*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics*  
*National Defense Industrial Association*  
*National Education Association*  
*National Girls Collaborative Project*  
*National Science Education Leadership Association*  
*National Science Teachers Association*  
*National Society of Professional Engineers*  
*Natural Science Collections Alliance*  
*New York State Technology Education Association*  
*Ohio Technology Education Association*  
*Project H.E.L.P.*

*Project Lead the Way*  
*SAE International*  
*Society for Research in Child Development*  
*Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*  
*Society of Women Engineers*  
*SPIE — The International Society for Optical Engineering*  
*STEMES*  
*TechNet*  
*The Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies*  
*The Coalition for STEM in Massachusetts*  
*Triangle Coalition*  
*U.S. Chamber of Commerce*  
*Vernier Software & Technology*  
*Wisdom Tools LLC*