

STEM Education Coalition



June 4, 2007

The Honorable Silvestre Reyes
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Reyes:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) Education Coalition, we commend you for your leadership in establishing a new Diversity and Innovation Caucus in the House of Representatives that will focus much-needed attention on the issue of increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in the STEM fields.

Throughout our nation's history, American economic and technological strength has been built upon a large and highly-skilled domestic workforce of scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians – the STEM workforce. One of the central goals of our Coalition has been to support new and innovative initiatives to encourage more of our best and brightest students, especially those from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, to study in STEM fields. We share your belief that the increased participation of demographic groups that are underrepresented in the STEM fields is essential to supplying the American economy with the expertise our nation needs to remain the world's most innovative and prosperous nation. Not only is this the right thing to do, it also makes excellent economic sense; when we focus limited resources on underrepresented populations we will achieve a higher return on our investments in American competitiveness.

We applaud the formation of the Diversity and Innovation Caucus and pledge to work with you and Members from both sides of the aisle to address this challenge. As the recent and overwhelming bi-partisan passage of major competitiveness legislation in the House and Senate has so clearly demonstrated, providing more of our young people with opportunities to pursue the STEM careers that will keep our nation strong is something everyone can agree on.

The STEM Education Coalition comprises a broad range of groups representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our Coalition works to raise awareness in Congress, the Administration, and 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.

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

Sincerely,

Acoustical Society of America
American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of University Women
American Chemical Society
American Council on Education
American Institute of Physics
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
ASME Center for Leadership and Diversity
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association of Educational Publishers
Association for Women in Science
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Business Higher Education Forum
Chicago Educational Publishing Co
Computing Research Association
Council on Undergraduate Research
Design Science
Ecological Society of America
Education Development Center, Inc.
Exploratorium
Girls Inc.
Hands on Science Partnership
Institute of Food Technologists
International Technology Education Association
Museum of Science, Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Center for Women and Information Technology
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association
National Venture Capital Association
Ohio Academy of Science
Ohio Technology Education Association
Optical Society of America
SAE International
SPIE
Society of Women Engineers
STEMES
Triangle Coalition
Women in Engineering Programs and Advocates Network, Inc.