

# STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

July 1, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing in support of the new Administration's request of \$7.045 billion in fiscal year 2010 for the National Science Foundation (NSF). *However, we remain very concerned that the Administration's budget request falls short in providing adequate long-term investments in the programs of NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and its efforts to foster improvements in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, continuing education, vocational, career, and informal STEM education.*

NSF has long-served as a catalyst for STEM education reform. NSF's EHR Directorate seeks to advance discovery and innovation at the frontiers of STEM learning and teaching; support the conceptualization, design, testing, assessment, study and evaluation of highly innovative models and approaches to learning in formal and informal settings; advance equity and participation for all by building and strengthening participation in the scientific-technical enterprise; foster linkages between STEM education research and practice; and serve as the intellectual nexus that unites education research and evaluation activities across the Foundation and with other federal agencies.

Over the past several years, Congress has repeatedly demonstrated strong bipartisan support for increased investment to strengthen the U.S. STEM education pipeline and basic research in the physical sciences as reflected by the 2007 passage of the America COMPETES Act and the subsequent enactment of the fiscal year 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Bill and the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Our Coalition commends Congress for these important actions.

The Administration's fiscal year 2010 budget requests \$857.76 million for the EHR Directorate, a 1.5 percent increase over the fiscal year 2009 level, not including the \$100 million provided for EHR programs in fiscal year 2009 by the Recovery Act. While this funding level provides significant, much-needed resources for the education programs of NSF's EHR Directorate, the proposed funding level for fiscal year 2010 is still significantly below the level of \$1.1 billion authorized by the America COMPETES Act. Perhaps more significantly, we note that the 1.5 percent increase provided to the EHR Directorate is contrasted with an overall increase to the NSF budget of 8.5 percent and a 10.6 percent increase in its proposed budget for NSF's Research and Related Activities account.

To be clear, our Coalition supports robust federal investments in NSF's basic scientific research

programs that will inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields and bolster our country's capacity for innovation and global economic competitiveness. However, it is also clear that if we want our nation to remain competitive in the global economy and continue to be a world leader in innovation, we must bolster our commitment to NSF's educational mission. The position of our Coalition has consistently been that NSF's research and educational missions must be treated as co-equal core missions of the Foundation. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to provide the highest possible funding for NSF's EHR Directorate in fiscal year 2010.

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,

*Allegheny-Singer Research Institute  
Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies  
American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Chemical Society  
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  
Association for Women in Science  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS)  
Biotechnology Institute  
Buhach Colony Engineering Academy  
California Healthcare Institute (CHI)  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Chicago Educational Publishing Company, LLC  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
EAST Initiative  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Engineers Without Borders-USA  
ETA/Cuisenaire  
Exploratorium  
IEEE-USA  
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
In Reach, Inc.  
Information in Place, Inc.  
INSPIRE, Institute for P-12 Engineering Research and Learning, Purdue University  
Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)  
International Technology Education Association  
Kitchen Culture Education Technologies Inc.*

*Kitchen Culture Kits Inc.*  
*Laurel School District. Delaware*  
*LEARN Coalition*  
*Maritime Academy Charter High School*  
*Maryland Science Center*  
*Math for America*  
*Museum of Science, Boston*  
*Museum of Science and Industry*  
*National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc.,*  
*National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity*  
*National Center for Technological Literacy*  
*National Council for Advanced Manufacturing*  
*National Girls Collaborative Project*  
*National Science Education Leadership Association*  
*National Science Teachers Association*  
*National Society of Professional Engineers*  
*New York Hall of Science*  
*New York State Technology Education Association*  
*Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition*  
*Ohio Technology Education Advisory Council*  
*Ohio Technology Education Association*  
*Pathways into Science*  
*PBS*  
*Play Well TEKnologies*  
*Project Exploration*  
*SACNAS*  
*Science Teachers Association of New York State*  
*Self Sufficient Investors*  
*Society for Research in Child Development*  
*Society of Women Engineers*  
*South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics & Science*  
*SPIE – The International Society for Optics and Photonics*  
*STEM School Administrators Association*  
*Technology Education Association of Massachusetts*  
*Tennessee Science Teachers Association*  
*Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc.*  
*Triangle Coalition*  
*University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown*  
*Urban STEM Strategy Group*