



March 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As an alliance of more than 600 education, business, and professional organizations from across the country, the STEM Education Coalition is united in our goal of advocating for policies that will improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at every level. We strongly believe that our nation must improve the way students learn STEM subjects to guarantee the United States remains an economic and technological leader in the global marketplace.

Many of the priorities you have publicly discussed, including infrastructure, investment in manufacturing, and job growth require a large, well-trained STEM workforce. We hope you will find the following ideas to reinvigorate the American workforce and promote U.S. prosperity helpful as you and your team develop a policy agenda for the next four years.

White House Actions

- Appoint a STEM coordinator at the White House whose role will be to drive your STEM education, workforce, and jobs agenda across federal agencies.
- Appoint qualified STEM education professionals to a wider range of federal advisory bodies. These could include the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and the National Science Board. It is imperative that professionals with real world STEM education experience are included in decisions about the future of our nation's science policy.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to make sure STEM education priorities are aligned with current workforce needs. Business and industry involvement in setting local, state, and national education priorities is essential in fostering a workforce ready for gainful employment.
- Encourage collaboration between agencies across the federal government. A federal STEM agenda must integrate workforce, K-12, higher-education, career and technical, informal and out-of-school learning, and research elements in a manner that effectively leverages resources across the federal government.

Support Funding for STEM Education

- In your first budget, provide full funding for the Every Student Succeeds Act Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants Program (SSAEG, Title IV, Part A). If funded at the full and Congressionally-authorized level of \$1.65 billion, this program puts

control in the states' hands, providing every state and district with flexible, needs-based funding that can be used at their discretion to support STEM-related learning.

- As you develop your infrastructure proposal, dedicate funding for school improvement provisions such as modernizing school labs and computer centers.
- When you approach immigration reform, allocate fees paid by U.S. employers seeking to hire foreign workers through high-skilled visas and greencard programs to support additional improvements in U.S. STEM education programs.
- Propose robust, predictable, and sustained support for the National Science Foundation. This includes fully funding NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate and other agency efforts to develop a rigorous education research base to inform innovations in teaching, learning, and educational materials. These programs are essential if the U.S. is to stay on the cutting-edge of STEM education and compete internationally.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of our recommendations. The STEM Education Coalition firmly believes that in today's economy, our nation's current and future prosperity is directly tied to our excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your administration.

Respectfully,

James Brown
Executive Director
STEM Education Coalition