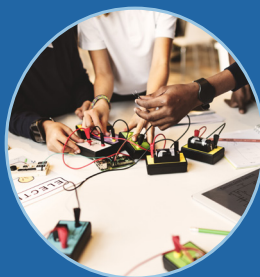


# STEM Education Coalition 2017 Annual Report







**The STEM Education Coalition has a powerful impact, thanks to the broad and united support of our more than 750 members in the education, business, and professional communities. We strive to ensure every student has access to a great education that will enable them to compete successfully for their own best futures in the increasingly technology-driven global economy.**

**This report highlights our work in making sure the voices of the STEM education community are heard – and listened to.**





# Year in Review

**2017 will be remembered as a year of enormous change. Our Coalition recognizes the pathways into modern careers are changing and our nation's education system must change too.**

**The STEM Education Coalition has long been a respected voice in Washington, representing the views of a diverse array of STEM stakeholders. Over the years, we have also successfully expanded our engagement at the state level where more and more education policy decisions are being made in the wake of changes enacted in the nation's primary K-12 education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).**

**In 2017, we met with more than 100 legislators and their staffs. We are proud to have helped shape a number of significant pieces of legislation that were signed into law, including the FOREVER GI Bill, which included more than \$800 million in new federal earned benefits to veterans pursuing undergraduate degrees in STEM fields.**

**We are engaged in more than 20 states working to prioritize STEM education initiatives in state education plans and budgets and to engage more STEM educators and professionals in the public policy process.**

**We hosted congressional public briefing events on K-12, higher education, career and technical education, and in-and-out-of-school issues with a collective audience of more than 600 attendees. The Coalition was also invited to testify before both state and federal legislative committees.**

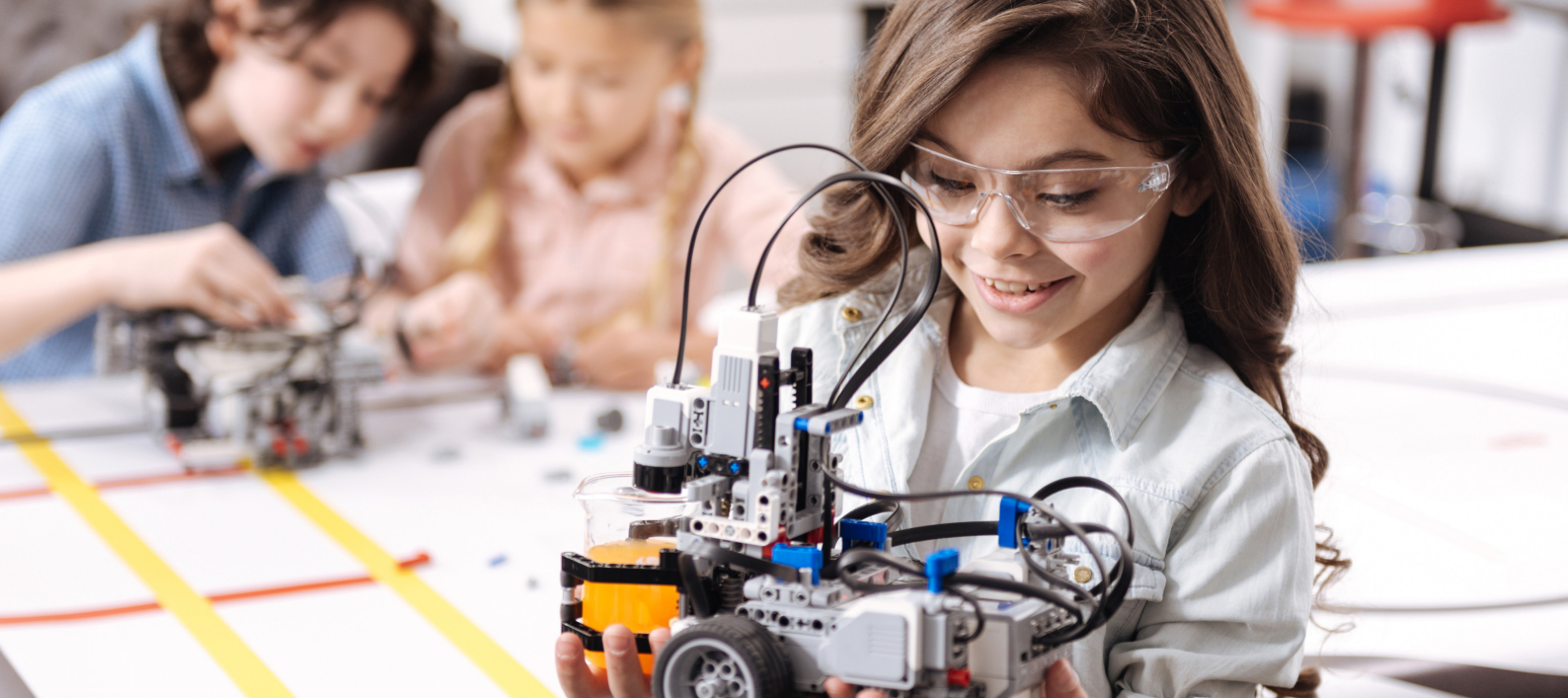
**The Coalition's activities have been covered in major media outlets in the U.S. and internationally, including U.S. News and World Report, the Washington Post, Investor's Business Daily, and Education Week.**

**We publish a weekly newsletter to an audience of more than 25,000 STEM educators, businesses, and education leaders and our Twitter following has grown to over 41,000.**

**In 2017, we were happy to welcome Festo Didactic as the newest member of our Coalition's Leadership Council. We also added more than 50 new local affiliate members to our Coalition, which now numbers more than 750 business, professional, and education organizations.**

**The education landscape is ever-shifting and as Congress and the White House contemplate major changes to K-12, higher education, and career and technical education policies, the STEM Education Coalition will continue to engage as a forceful and bipartisan advocate for STEM education at every level.**





# Highlights of Our Work

**February 2, 2017:** During her confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Secretary Betsy DeVos answered numerous STEM-related questions that were penned by the Coalition and submitted to the Committee.

**March 13, 2017:** The Coalition made policy recommendations to President Donald Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos that outlined proposed STEM education priorities for the White House and Department of Education (ED).

**March 16, 2017:** The Coalition responded strongly to President Trump's proposed FY2018 Federal budget. The Coalition vehemently opposed the President's proposed elimination of programs including the Title II teacher support grants, Title IVA, and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. These programs were retained in the final budget approved by Congress, per our recommendation.

**June 1, 2017:** The Coalition urged President Trump to nominate highly-qualified individuals to fill the many remaining vacancies in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). OSTP is critical in directing science priorities across all levels of the federal government. Positions within the Office, including the Director role, had remained vacant since the President's inauguration.

**July 2017:** The Coalition started a dialogue with Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Jason Botel. Coalition members expressed concerns that ED may be discouraging states from including science accountability in their Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans. Acting Assistant Secretary Botel responded promptly to the Coalition and clarified the Department's position supporting of science education indicators in state plans.



**July 26, 2017:** James Brown, Executive Director of the Coalition testified in front of The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Space, Science, and Technology at the Committee's invitation. At the hearing, entitled STEM and Computer Science Education: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce, Mr. Brown discussed the skills gap in the United States and the need for a meaningful federal commitment to STEM education.

**August 17, 2017:** The Coalition actively engaged with veteran-serving organizations including Student Veterans of America, The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars and the House and Senate to ensure that the reauthorization of the GI Bill (the Forever GI Bill) included \$800 million in new STEM scholarships. The scholarships can be used by veterans pursuing STEM degrees that require more than 128-credit hours to complete. The full GI Bill reauthorization package was passed and signed into law.

**September 26, 2017:** The Coalition responded to President Trump's Presidential Memorandum to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, which directed the Secretary to allot at least \$200 million per year in grant funding to STEM education. The Coalition emphasized the need for higher overall levels of STEM education funding while setting the table for further cooperation with the Department on administering the grants.

**December 5, 2017:** The Coalition provided technical assistance to a comprehensive study conducted by Education First into state, local, and district usage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to expand STEM education. The study, titled "Making the Most of ESSA: Opportunities to Advance STEM Education," was authored by Anand Vaishnav and Jacob Waters. It received substantial press coverage, including an op-ed published in Education Week featuring Executive Director James Brown.





# Media Coverage

## **August 2017 – Scientia Magazine Interview:**

“In this exclusive interview, we have had the pleasure of speaking with Lindsey Gardner, Director of External Relations for the STEM Education Coalition, who tells us about their mission to engage more stakeholders in working together to promote and support improvements in the way students learn about science, technology and engineering. She tells us that, ‘as a non-profit organization we currently have over 700 members across the country. Our members include Fortune 500 companies, teachers’ organizations, professional societies, and a variety of other stakeholders. Our vision for the future includes more state-level engagement, as that’s where many education decisions are made.”

## **September 2017 – Lab Out Loud Podcast**

The Coalition was featured on the Lab out Loud podcast, hosted by science teachers Dale Basler and Brian Bartel. The podcast and blog cover science news, education, and other topics relevant to science educators. The Coalition’s Executive Director James Brown discussed how the Every Student Succeeds Act will affect STEM education, states, and how teachers can be involved in the law’s implementation.

## **December 2017 – Education Week Op-Ed**

Along with Education First, the Coalition published an op-ed highlighting ESSA’s crucial role in promoting STEM outreach to underrepresented communities in Education Week. The article, titled ESSA is a Big Piece of the STEM Equity Puzzle, explored how states and districts can use the additional flexibility in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to address the well-documented imbalances in the STEM pipeline.





# The Policy Forum

The STEM Education Coalition Policy Forum, launched in 2015, is the public information and analysis component of the STEM Education Coalition. The Policy Forum continues to grow and deepen its focus on developing an in-depth understanding of emerging and critical STEM education policy issues.

## Year in Review

### **May 2017 – STEM 101: Major Policy Issues for the 115th Congress**

On May 10, the Policy Forum hosted the “STEM 101: Major Policy Issues for the 115th Congress” briefing on Capitol Hill. The briefing featured expert panelists Dr. David Evans of the National Science Teachers Association, Allyson Knox of Microsoft, Dr. Norman Fortenberry of the American Society for Engineering Education, Domenic Giandomenico of Project Lead the Way and Erik Peterson of the Afterschool Alliance. With over 100 congressional staff and education policy leaders in the room, the panelists covered several issues including appropriations, widening the STEM pipeline, integrating hands-on and engineering education, equity and access, afterschool STEM, and computer science.

### **September 2017 – STEM in the States: Impacts of Every Student Succeeds Act**

On September 13, the Policy Forum hosted the “STEM in the States: Impacts of the Every Student Succeeds Act” congressional briefing with Battelle/STEMx. The panel featured Anand Vaishnav of Education First, Stephanie Rodriguez of the Afterschool Alliance, and Michael Feder, then of Battelle/STEMx. The speakers presented their findings on the state level impacts of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and explored how state administrators are utilizing new authorities under ESSA to prioritize STEM education in their states. The panelists also discussed how state and local advocates, including afterschool and informal learning advocates, are influencing state plans through the ongoing advocacy work.



# Year in Review (Continued)

## November 2017 – Veterans in STEM: Innovations in Recruiting Those Who Serve

On November 15, the Policy Forum co-hosted the “Veterans in STEM: Innovations in Recruiting those Who Serve” briefing with Student Veterans of America. The briefing featured Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs Phil Roe, who talked about the importance of the new STEM scholarship program in the Forever GI Bill and the need to get information about innovative learning programs to veterans through social media and the internet. The diverse panel included Gardner Carrick of The Manufacturing Institute, John Decoteau III of Universal Technical Institute, Barrett Bogue of Student Veterans of America, and Dr. Ashok Agarwal of the American Society for Engineering Education. The experts addressed what steps Congress, business, and education organizations can take to get more of the talent, skills, and leadership of the veteran community into the high-paying, high-need STEM fields.

## Afterschool STEM Hub

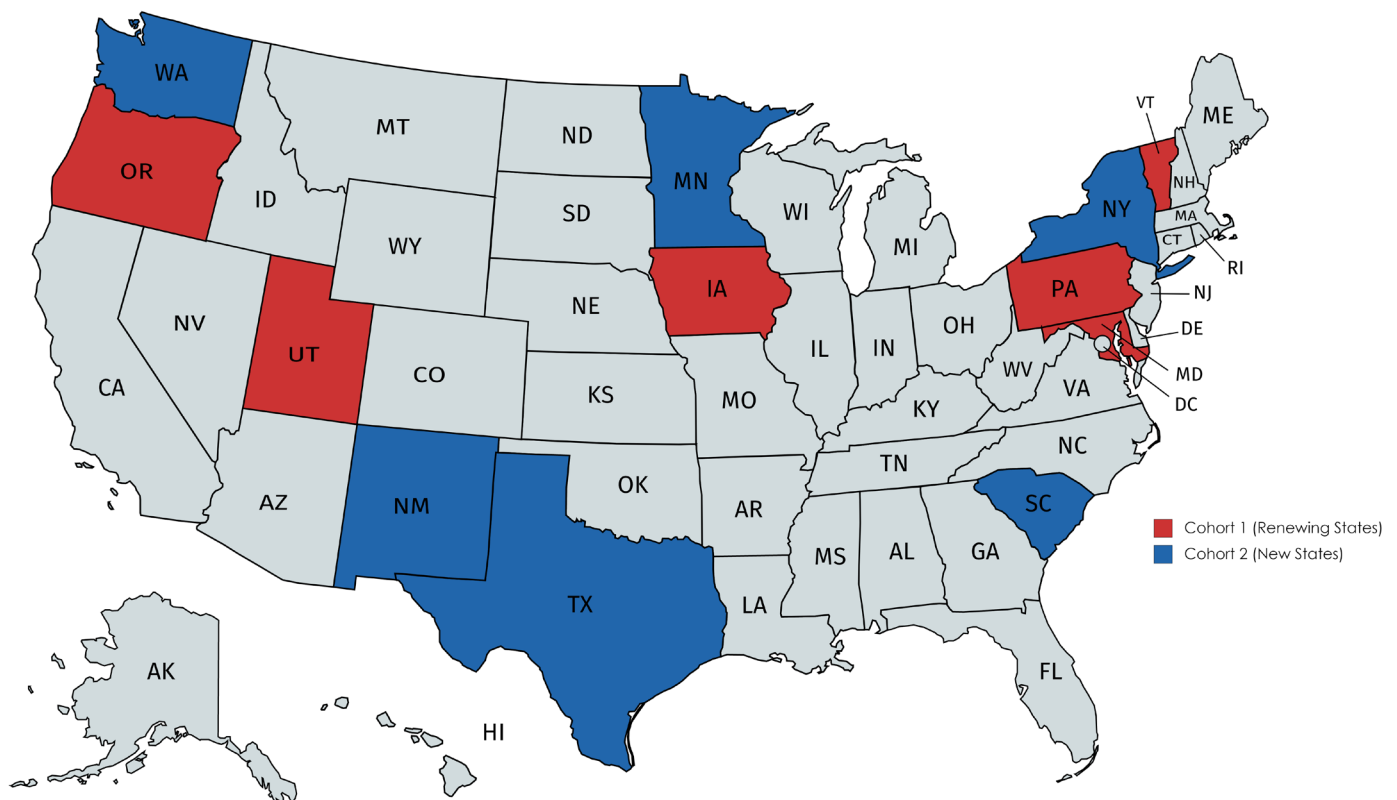
In 2017, the STEM Education Coalition Policy Forum continued our involvement in the Afterschool STEM Hub, which is supported by STEM Next Opportunity Fund (previously the Noyce Foundation). The Afterschool STEM Hub produced coordinated messaging and advocacy tools so local advocacy efforts can harmonize with the efforts of afterschool STEM advocates across the United States. The Afterschool STEM Hub is supported by a diverse collaboration of afterschool leaders and stakeholders and is led by the Afterschool Alliance.





# Overdeck Family Foundation Grant

In 2017, the Policy Forum expanded our partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and Overdeck Family Foundation on a multi-state initiative providing technical assistance to the Mott Statewide Afterschool Networks (SANs) to engage in state-level out-of-school-time STEM policy. Activities during the 2016-17 grant cycle centered on providing the SANs with an online toolkit for STEM policy advocacy and regular one-on-one technical assistance as well as coaching the SANs on the development of their individual advocacy plans. The SANs also participated in polling, which indicated significant improvements in their confidence and effectiveness in advocating for afterschool-STEM thanks to the supports received from the Policy Forum.



## Five Fast Facts

- 41 of 50 Statewide Afterschool Networks (SANs) were reached
- 100% of SANs recognize Afterschool Alliance and the Coalition as trusted STEM Policy Sources
- 70% of SANs report more engagement in STEM Advocacy
- 5/6 direct grantees influenced ESSA or other state policies
- 100% of direct grantees increased their influence

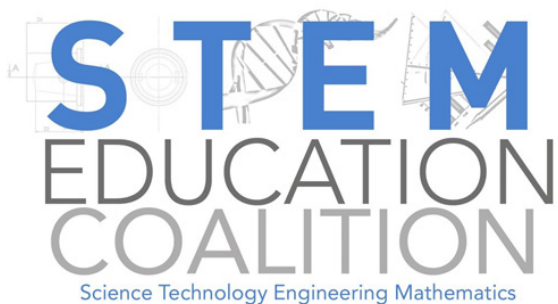


# Our Members



To our Leadership Council and over 750 affiliate members, thank you for your continued support in the mission of the STEM Education Coalition and our shared vision for a better future!





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National Science Teachers Association

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Treasurer/Secretary  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Education Development Center

### **Lauren E. Posey**

Co-Chair  
Manager, Government Affairs  
American Chemical Society

### **Steve Alexander**

Co-Chair  
Principal  
Hands on Science Partnership

### **Allyson Knox**

Co-Chair  
Director, Education Policy  
Microsoft Corporation

### **Ken Krehbiel**

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Associate Executive Director,  
Communications  
National Council of Teachers of  
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