

STEM CAUCUS NEWS

April 2012

The Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (STEM Ed) Caucus News is a collection of the major news stories, events, and legislation in STEM policy. The Congressional STEM Ed Caucus is co-chaired by Congressmen Dan Lipinski and Roscoe Bartlett. If your Member is interested in joining the Caucus, or would like to be removed from the Caucus distribution list please e-mail Jim Curry Jim.Curry@mail.house.gov (Lipinski) or Faye Powers Faye.Powers@mail.house.gov (Bartlett).

In the News...

Cognizant Supports Engineering & Math Education

January 31, 2012

Cognizant is doing good and doing well. The technology consultancy wants to stem the tide of slowly degrading technical education in the U.S. It has just made a \$1 million grant over three years to bolster the technology and engineering portions of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Specifically, Cognizant's grant will help Boston's Museum of Science create a library of video training tools for the Museum's Engineering is Elementary program and allow the New York Hall of Science to build a "Maker Space" for hands-on learning.

Lawrence: Science education needs boost from corporate America

February 18, 2012

That waning enthusiasm means fewer students are choosing a path to engineering. With inadequate emphasis on science and engineering and cuts in education funding, students are often far behind their international peers by the time they reach middle school. The vital pipeline of talent of well-trained scientists and engineers in this country is at risk of drying up.

The Engineering Society of Detroit Launches Initiative to Curb Engineering

February 19, 2012

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Feb. 19, 2012 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Following years of economic distress, many of Michigan's golden workforce--its engineers and scientists gave up and left the state, leaving numerous well-known companies with too many job openings and not enough talent. The answer? Bring back those who left, and find ways to keep existing professionals and young graduates in Michigan.

Science-and-engineering workforce has stalled in US, report says

March 2, 2012

Computerworld - The U.S. has a remarkable track record of innovation and continues to lead the world in the development of many new technologies. Why, then, isn't the nation's science-and-engineering work force -- the people responsible for much of that innovation -- growing? That's a question posed by the Population Reference Bureau's recent analysis of the science-and-engineering (S&E) workforce. As a percentage of the total labor force, S&E workers accounted for 4.9% of the workforce in 2010, a slight decline from the three previous years when these workers accounted for 5% of the workforce.

[Sizing Up America's High-Tech Talent](#)

March 16, 2012

Business and political leaders have repeatedly warned that America's scientists and engineers are in short supply. However, some economists say the numbers indicate the opposite — a glut of high-tech workers. A panel of experts debates whether America's schools produce the scientific workforce needed to compete globally.

[National STEM Leadership Award from NEF Goes to VA Principal](#)

March 22, 2012

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Mar 22, 2012 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Robert L. Eichorn, principal of New Directions Alternative Education Center in Manassas, VA, was recognized by National Education Foundation (NEF), on Friday, March 16, 2012 with the 2011-12 NEF CyberLearning National STEM Education Leadership Award. NEF is the national nonprofit leader in providing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education solution to disadvantaged schools across the U.S.

[Raytheon Celebrates Pi Day with Pie](#)

April 1, 2012

Engineers can't determine the circumference of a circle without the key math figure known as pi. So defense contractor Raytheon Co. wanted to thank the math and science teachers for teaching the significance of the mathematical constant 3.14. The company recently dispatched a host of employees to local middle schools to deliver dozens of apple pies to teachers in honor of Pi Day on March 14. Employees taught students the origin of the math figure and quizzed them with pi calculations.

[STEM Education Technology Trends: Evolving Classrooms](#)

April 3, 2012

U.S. students have been falling behind their international peers in STEM, and this poses a serious threat to America's competitive spirit and prosperity. In addition to this, STEM fields offer a smorgasbord of career opportunities that are ripe for the taking. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, jobs in STEM are predicted to increase 17 percent by 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth in non-STEM-related occupations. That's why a nationwide push for creating STEM learning opportunities through technology is taking center stage.

[*Upcoming Events around the Hill...*](#)

[Sneak Peek Friday for USA Science & Engineering Festival](#)

April 27, 2012, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Members of Congress and their staffs are invited to join us for a "Sneak Peek" into the 2nd USA Science & Engineering Festival - the largest celebration of science in the US which aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers! Sneak Peek Friday is a special, invitation only event for students in underserved schools, military families, home schoolers, as well as House and Senate Members and their staffs, White House officials and Agency representatives, to preview and experience the EXPO exhibits before they open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday.

Attendees will have access to over 2000 hands-on, interactive activities offered by more than 500 leading science organizations from around the nation. Imagine chatting with Albert Einstein, flying a simulated jet fighter, being a crime scene investigator, building an underwater robot, taking a vacation in space or watching a science magician. These are just a few of the

activities and exhibits you will find at Sneak Peek Friday. There is something for students of all ages! To confirm your attendance at Sneak Peek Friday, please complete the form at: <https://scholarnexus.wufoo.com/forms/sneak-peek-friday-government-officials/>

[2nd P-12 Engineering and Design Education Research Summit](#)

April 26-28

The 2nd P-12 Engineering and Design Education Research Summit brings together researchers in the nascent field of P-12 engineering education research. The conference provides a nationally unique space for researchers to meet and discuss research as there are no other venues available, where researchers can find a “high concentration” of people working in the same field. This summit functions also as a space to develop engineering education research capacity: (1) a doctoral consortium, which provides Ph.D. students with the opportunity to receive mentorship and individual feedback on their proposals, and (2) sessions which function as workshops to provide professional development opportunity for staffers and researchers.

[On the Hill...](#)

CRS Briefing: 10 Years of STEM Ed Funding at the NSF [CONGRESSIONAL STAFF ONLY]

April 10, 2012

The House STEM Education Caucus will be hosting a staff-only briefing **Tuesday, April 10th, at 10 a.m. in Rayburn 2168** on STEM Education in the Federal Budget. Heather Gonzalez, Science and Technology Policy Specialist at CRS, will give a sneak-peak at research she is completing on trends in the past 10 years of STEM Education funding within the National Science Foundation, and what it means within the context of this year’s budget and future STEM education funding.

[From the Administration...](#)

[NASA Co-Hosts Minority Males In STEM Symposium](#)

February 24, 2012

WASHINGTON -- NASA's Office of Education will join the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in hosting a Minority Males in STEM Symposium on Feb. 28. The day-long program will focus on ways to increase participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields for students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups.

[Recent Action on STEM Legislation...](#)

**This is a record of recently introduced legislation related to STEM Ed. The Caucus does not endorse any specific initiatives or legislation but instead strives to inform Members and staff about matters related to STEM Education.

[H.R.3821](#)

Latest Title: After School for America's Children Act of 2012

Sponsor: [Rep Kildee, Dale E.](#) [D-MI-5] (introduced 1/24/2012) **Cosponsors:** [12](#)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Related Bills: [S.1370](#)

Latest Major Action: 3/29/2012 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

[H.R.3990](#)

Latest Title: Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teachers Act

Sponsor: [Rep Kline, John](#) [R-MN-2] (introduced 2/9/2012) **Cosponsors:** [9](#)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce; House Armed Services; House Financial Services

Related Bills: [H.R.1342](#), [H.R.2094](#), [H.R.3896](#), [S.596](#)

Latest Major Action: 2/28/2012 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Ordered to be Reported (Amended).

[H.R.3989](#)

Latest Title: Student Success Act

Sponsor: [Rep Kline, John](#) [R-MN-2] (introduced 2/9/2012) **Cosponsors:** [11](#)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 2/28/2012 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Ordered to be Reported (Amended).