

STEM CAUCUS NEWS

May 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...

Ladies: Stop running from engineering

February 23, 2012

Despite efforts from companies and nonprofits to encourage more women to join the engineering world, female ranks in the field are still quite small. What's gone wrong?

NGA Brief Highlights Advantages of Informal Science

March 29, 2012

While the United States remains the world hub of science and technology capacity, its dominance is being challenged by the fast growth of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent in Asia and other parts of the developing world, according to a new issue brief released today by the National Governors Association.

New Poll Shows Strong Support for Improving Science Education

March 30, 2012

A recent poll released today shows voters are virtually unanimous—97%—in believing that improving the quality of science education is important to the United States' ability to compete globally. Moreover, making sure American students receive a world-class education in math and science ranked second only to fixing the nation's financial health as a strategy for improving America's economic competitiveness with other countries.

The STEM Profession that Women Dominate

April 9, 2012

Do you know which major STEM field boasts as many women in the profession as men? Where almost half the college degrees – even at the PhD level – are granted to women? Where women have a significant presence in the most influential circles of the profession? There's so much attention paid to the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics that you'd think this would be front page news, but most haven't even noticed.

2012 National Survey of STEM Education Released

April 10, 2012

The third annual report on the current conditions of the STEM market, which has been released by IESD, Inc and STEM Market Impact, LLC outlines over 700 unmet needs expressed by administrators and educators that present opportunities for companies seeking to enter this increasingly lucrative market. In addition to outlining the future STEM goals of educational institutions around the nation, the 2012 National Survey of STEM Education also charts the

tablet adoption efforts in American schools and looks at how many schools have already adopted the gadgets for current classroom use, and how many are looking to do so in the near future.

[U.S. News Announces First-Ever National STEM Convention](#)

April 27, 2012

The inaugural U.S. News STEM Solutions 2012: A Leadership Summit, taking place June 27-29 in Dallas, Texas, will result in a national consensus on best practices and the next steps, both short- and long-term, for ensuring a competitive workforce. "We are at a critical juncture in America today," says Brian Kelly, Editor and Chief Content Officer of U.S. News & World Report. "Maintaining our global competitiveness, our economic health, our national security, and our innovative spirit all depend on an abundant pipeline of tech-savvy workers."

[USA Science & Engineering Festival Held In Washington, DC.](#)

April 27, 2012

The Washington Post (4/27, Dazio) reported on the second USA Science & Engineering Festival held April 27 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. "More than 13,000 kids got their geek on with Bill Nye 'the Science Guy,' storm chasers and astronauts at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center for the first day of a three-day event designed to revive interest in" STEM. "On Friday, row upon row of exhibits dominated the convention center, featuring everything from food science to space exploration - complete with an Orion spacecraft, the Magic School Bus and, of course, the Science Guy."

[Op-Ed: STEM Education Key to US Remaining Competitive](#)

April 27, 2012

Fewer young Americans are entering fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, putting the nation's status as an innovative world leader in severe jeopardy. Discussing the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival, House Science, Space and Technology Chairman Ralph Hall (R-Texas), said that 'inspiring our children to become more interested in the STEM fields and in careers through endeavors such as this is the key to unlocking our future economic and innovative potential.' With our nation's global competitiveness on the line, now is the time to make celebrating science a priority and create a new generation of inventors and explorers who will solve the challenges of the future and continue America's tradition of being a world leader in innovation.

[FIRST Announces Strategic Alliance With Boys and Girls Clubs of America](#)

April, 28, 2012

FIRST ® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a not-for-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) today announced a U.S.- based Strategic Alliance to promote the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in K-12 education through the American Innovation & Mentorship Agreement (AIM) that will reach some four million youth.

[National Science Test Shows Only Slight Improvement](#)

May 10, 2012

National tests measuring science knowledge among eighth-graders show slight improvement compared with those of two years earlier, but one-third of all students still lack a basic understanding of the physical, life and earth sciences, according to a federal study made public Thursday.

[From the Administration...](#)

[White House Releases Report on Women and the Economy](#)

April 6, 2012

Today, at the White House Forum on Women and the Economy, the President will discuss the importance of restoring the economic security for the middle class and creating an economy that's built to last for America's women. The President believes we must build an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone pays their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules. As part of today's Forum the White House released a new report entitled Keeping America's Women Moving Forward, The Key to an Economy Built to Last, which examines the ways in which the Administration has worked to ensure women's economic security through all stages of life – from young women furthering their education and beginning their careers, to working women who create jobs and provide for their families, to seniors in retirement or getting ready for retirement. View the report [HERE](#).

[OSTP Releases Data on STEM Education](#)

April 18, 2012

Today, OSTP publishes a trove of data on federal STEM education activities, the 2010 Federal STEM Education Inventory Data Set. The data set is accessible on the OSTP site and also at [data.gov](#). The data set includes information on what STEM education programs the government funded in 2010, what audiences were targeted, what outcomes were monitored, and much more. The data set, which includes information from 13 Federal agencies that support education programs focused on STEM subjects, is the most comprehensive description of Federal STEM education programs.

[White House: The Next Generation of Girls in STEM](#)

April 24, 2012

Girls in STEM, featuring young women scientists and engineers who wowed the President and the nation at the White House Science Fair in February, shines a spotlight on these extraordinary young role models and their exciting projects – ranging from a machine that detects buried landmines, to a prosthetic hand device, to a lunchbox that uses UV light to kill bacteria on food. Following the release of this video, several of America's top women in science and engineering took the stage to talk about how pursuing their interest in STEM led them to exciting and rewarding careers. Moderated by Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and an engineer by training – who also delivered opening remarks – this panel included...

[NASA Announces 2012 Summer Of Innovation Project](#)

May 4, 2012

NASA's third annual Summer of Innovation project is underway. The project is providing hands-on learning opportunities for middle school students and educators through NASA-unique science, technology, engineering and mathematics educational activities during the summer school break. SoI is a key component of the agency's broader education program to increase student interest in STEM courses, particularly among those in underserved sectors of the academic community.

On the Hill...

Subcommittee Explores Local Efforts to Advance STEM Education

April 30, 2012

Today, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education Chairman Mo Brooks (R-AL), joined by Ranking Member Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), held a field hearing in Madison, Alabama to explore local science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs and partnerships. The hearing, titled STEM Education in Action: Local Schools, Non-Profits, and Businesses Doing Their Part to Secure America's Future, examined the impact of these programs and partnerships on the next generation of STEM professionals, local jobs, and the U.S. economy.

STEM Education Caucus Hosts Project Infinite Green

May 17, 2012

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) welcomed seventh-and eighth-grade students from Lemont to Washington today, congratulating them on the sustainable energy plans they presented to members of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus as part of Project Infinite Green. Project Infinite Green is a new afterschool program that brings together energy experts from government and the private sector to teach students about renewable energy and help them to develop plans for its increased use.

ExploraVision Science Fair on Capitol Hill

May 31, 2012

The ExploraVision Science Fair on Capitol Hill will be taking place Thursday, May 31st from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in The Rayburn Foyer. Students (and teachers, parents, and mentors) from the eight teams selected as winners among the more than 14,000 that participated nationwide will be in attendance to show off their winning projects, as will winners from past years to talk about how ExploraVision has inspired them towards STEM topics and STEM careers. Sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association and hosted in conjunction with the House STEM Education Caucus (www.stemedcaucus2.org), this event has encouraged student interest in STEM for the past 20 years. This year alone 14,606 students from the U.S. and Canada, representing nearly 5,000 teams, participated in ExploraVision. Since its inception, more than 300,000 students have participated.

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.4483

Latest Title: Broadening Participation in STEM Education Act

Sponsor: [Rep Johnson, Eddie Bernice](#) [D-TX-30] (introduced 4/24/2012) **Cosponsors:** [12](#)

Committees: House Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Major Action: 4/27/2012 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education.

H.R.4366

Latest Title: Project Ready STEM Act

Sponsor: [Rep Fudge, Marcia L.](#) [D-OH-11] (introduced 4/17/2012) **Cosponsors:** [10](#)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 4/17/2012 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

[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:** [13](#)

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:** [10](#)

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

House Reports: [112-459](#) Part 1

Related Bills: [H.R.2094](#), [H.R.3896](#), [S.595](#)

Latest Major Action: 4/27/2012 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 321.

[H.R.3989](#)

Latest Title: Student Success Act

Sponsor: [Rep Kline, John](#) [R-MN-2] (introduced 2/9/2012) **Cosponsors:** [13](#)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

House Reports: [112-458](#)

Latest Major Action: 4/27/2012 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 320.