

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING,
MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION**

(Forwarded by Council of State Governments – West)

Background Summary

The United States has established a legacy of inventions that have contributed to our modern way of life. These innovations are made possible by federal, state, and local investment in advanced education and research. In order to maintain the United States' position as a global leader it is important for states to emphasize educational investments in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In 2006, fifteen year olds in the United States ranked 21st in science and 25th in math literacy out of 30 industrialized countries. This performance is attributed to a lack of strong programs in elementary, secondary, and higher education and less than rigorous standards to certify teachers for such programs. Additionally, STEM fields, while representing 8 of the 10 fastest growing occupations, have significantly low participation among African Americans, Hispanics, and women.

There are programs in some states that encourage developments in STEM education that can serve as examples for improving the quality of programs across the nation. Innovate-Educate New Mexico's program connects STEM education across all levels of schooling from pre-school through college to establish mentors for students and enhance the resources available to those students. Increasing participation in STEM fields encourages students to achieve higher education and make lasting contributions to society through these important disciplines.

This resolution was originally adopted by CSG-WEST at the CSG-WEST 62nd Annual Meeting on October 8, 2009.

Additional Resource Information

- Innovate-Educate New Mexico: <http://innovate-educatenm.org>
- National Math + Science Initiative, "Tackling the STEM crisis":
http://www.nctq.org/p/docs/nctq_nmsi_stem_initiative.pdf
- CSG Midwest, "Laboratories of Reform":
<http://www.csamidwest.org/About/MLC/AnnualMeeting/2009AnnualMeeting/2009presentations/mathandsciencered.pdf>

Management Directives

- **Management Directive #1:** CSG will promote efforts to develop STEM curricula and sustain and provide funding for STEM educational programs.

- **Management Directive #2:** CSG will support efforts to expand STEM education to underrepresented populations and support efforts to encourage those populations to participate.
- **Management Directive #3:** CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's website and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

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WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments-*WEST* has gathered on October 5-8, 2009 in Santa Fe, New Mexico for the 62nd Annual Meeting and the 2009 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Policy Forum; and

WHEREAS, leaders from across 13 State Legislatures and local governments have convened discussions to look at common needs and issues on STEM issues; and

WHEREAS, Innovate-Educate New Mexico and the K-20 California Education Technology Collaborative are catalysts for action; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments recognizes that our nation succeeds and prospers with a robust, life-long learning education system that embraces innovation, rigor, academic excellence and educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments believes that the United States faces a shortage of science, technology, engineering, and math talent; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments believes that STEM education is critical to our economic and national security.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments commits to a deep and meaningful debate and calls for a collaborative, local, state, and national plan for action to accelerate, improve, and inspire STEM education at all levels for all citizens.

Adopted this ____ Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Meeting in La Quinta, CA.

Gov. Joe Manchin III
CSG President

Sen. Bart Davis
CSG Chairman