

Support Student Access to STEM Education

Cosponsor the Innovation Inspiration School Grant Program (H.R. 2247)

Dear Colleague:

According to the Department of Labor, a major key to continuing United States competitiveness in an increasingly global economic environment is a growing and improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce. Projections by the DOL show that STEM-related fields are expected to be the fastest growing occupations of the next decade. In fact, it is expected that employment in computer and mathematical science occupations will grow more than twice as fast as all other occupations in the economy.

As these fields become more central to the U.S. economic competitiveness and growth, Congress must do everything we can to promote these issue areas in schools around the country. Unfortunately, too few students are pursuing education in these fields, or are being outperformed by international competitors. Of the 2010 high school graduates who took the ACT test, 43% met the mathematics College Readiness Benchmark and only 29% met the benchmark in science (ACT 2010). In today's global economy, American students must have access to better STEM training, have the opportunity to be mentored by professionals in the field and be engaged in the study of these critical fields at deeper, more meaningful levels.

Our legislation, the *Innovation Inspiration School Grant Program*, will bolster our students' access to quality non-traditional STEM programs. It will grow the STEM pipeline and broaden access to careers in science, technology and math by providing federal support to engage students in extracurricular STEM programs. The legislation provides teachers with the hands-on training they need to ensure their students succeed in the program, as well as stipends for instruction outside of school hours.

The *Innovation Inspiration School Grant Program* will provide states and schools critical resources to partner with business and industry to support the participation of students in nonprofit STEM competitions, such as robotics. By connecting students with well trained teachers and community mentors in the field, we can foster innovation at the high school level and inspire young people to graduate high school, enter the workforce, or go onto college to major in science and engineering and pursue careers in these fields.

To learn more or to cosponsor, please contact Anne Sokolov (anne.sokolov@mail.house.gov) with Congressman Ryan or Kirtley Fisher (Kirtley.fisher@mail.house.gov) with Congressman Langevin.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress