

FACT SHEET: Five Years of Progress on the President's *Educate to Innovate* Campaign

November 20, 2014

“The success we seek is not going to be attained by government alone. It depends on the dedication of students and parents, and the commitment of private citizens, organizations, and companies. It depends on all of us. Today, we are launching the “Educate to Innovate” campaign, a nationwide effort to help reach the goal this administration has set: moving to the top in science and math education in the next decade.

- **President Obama**, November 23, 2009, at launch of *Educate to Innovate*

Five years ago, President Obama launched *Educate to Innovate*, an all-hands-on-deck campaign to help more girls and boys be inspired to excel in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects.

The campaign reflects the President's core conviction that far more needs to be done in giving students the critical skills needed to succeed in STEM fields, and that success required action not just from the Federal government, but the broader community of educational leaders, foundations, companies, non-profits, and science and technology professionals that have unique contributions they can make.

Today, the Administration is announcing new commitments and progress updates that showcase the ongoing momentum of the campaign, including:

- *100kin10*, a network of more than 200 partners, is announcing that it has raised another \$28 million in support of the goal of preparing 100,000 excellent STEM teachers over a decade.
- *Change the Equation*, a coalition of leading CEOs, is committing to expanding high-quality STEM programs to more than 1 million students by 2016.
- *Discovery Communications* will launch a new show next year to inspire students in STEM fields, highlighting “All-American Makers.”
- Continued growth in students reached by range of companies, non-profits, Federal agencies, and others participating in the President's campaign, including National Math and Science Initiative, US2020, Time Warner Cable, Maker Education Initiative, Institute of Museum and Libraries Services, Corporation for National and Community Service, Underwater Dreams, and others.

Today at the White House, the President will highlight the ongoing momentum of *Educate to Innovate* as he honors the winners of the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation, and emphasizes the collective opportunity to inspire and support this generation of students in these key fields.

Background

President Obama believes that strong and sustained investment in STEM education is critical for the Nation's future competitiveness. In order for the United States to continue to lead the world in science, technology, and innovation and reap the health, security, and economic benefits these disciplines offer, STEM engagement, learning, and achievement must be improved in schools and communities nationwide.

From the beginning of his Administration, the President has focused on several key strategies to improve STEM education:

- *Setting ambitious national goals:* These goals include moving American kids from the middle to top of the pack of international rankings in science and math, preparing 100,000 excellent STEM teachers, producing 1 million more STEM college graduates over a decade, and broadening participation in STEM fields for women and underrepresented minorities.
- *Maintaining a strong investment in STEM education even during difficult budgetary times:* The President's Budget has maintained funding in STEM education, prioritized improving the ability of Federal agencies to collaborate to improve STEM education, while reducing the fragmentation of the STEM-education portfolio with the number of programs reduced by over 40 percent in last two years.
- *Incorporating STEM education into the Administration's overall education reform strategy:* For example, the Department of Education's \$4 billion Race to the Top program included preference to states whose proposals emphasized innovation in STEM education.
- *Deploying the President's personal passion for getting more students excited about science and math:* The President created the tradition of the White House Science Fair—hosting four so far—which celebrate student winners of math, science, and robotics competitions, and hosted the first-ever White House Maker Faire earlier this year, showcasing students and adults accessing the tools and skills necessary to design and make just about anything.

Woven throughout these efforts has been the Administration's emphasis on building an "all hands on deck" effort. The launch of *Educate to Innovate* in November 2009 was built on the President's belief that improving STEM education must be a national effort, not just a Federal one. As the past five years have shown, it is possible to build effective multi-sector partnerships that harness the unique capabilities of the many elements of society—including governors, philanthropists, scientists, engineers, educators, and the private sector—to accelerate progress and deliver results for the American people.

New Steps Being Announced Today

Campaign to prepare 100,000 excellent STEM teachers continues to grow, with more than \$28 million in new funds raised: Responding to the President’s call in his 2011 State of the Union to prepare 100,000 excellent STEM teachers over 10 years, more than 200 organizations have come together in a network called *100Kin10*. Today, *100Kin10* is announcing \$28 million pledged against the goal, including investments from by AT&T, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation, Lockheed-Martin, the New York Attorney General’s Office Settlement Fund, Noyce Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and the Tortora Sillcox Family Foundation. This new announcement builds on accomplishments that include:

- *Total funds raised:* With the close of this third Fund, 100Kin10 has raised over \$80 million from a broad range of foundations and philanthropists to support the work of partner organizations. These funds are all made available in a “funding marketplace,” where funders have access to a registry of projects proposed by 100Kin10 partners, strategic grantmaking advice and support, and a network of partners eager to engage around the critical issues facing STEM education. To date, *100Kin10* funders have collectively given 138 awards to 116 *100Kin10* programmatic Partner organizations totaling over \$53 million in grants.
- *More than 250 partner commitments that will prepare more than 40,000 teachers:* These organizations have made over 250 measurable commitments to increasing the supply of excellent STEM teachers; hiring, developing, and retaining excellent STEM teachers; and building the 100Kin10 movement. Over the first two years of the effort, 100Kin10 Partners working to increase the supply of excellent STEM teachers have directly recruited and prepared 12,399 STEM teachers. 100Kin10 estimates Partners will recruit and prepare over 43,000 STEM teachers over the first five years of the initiative, while Partners working to retain those already in the classroom will support tens of thousands more.
- *A growing research network:* 100Kin10’s growing research and learning effort is providing pathways for partners to share data; learn from one another’s practices, strategies, and results; and work together to address and overcome shared challenges. Over 95% of Partners contributed to a network-wide data collection earlier this year, which asked Partners about their work directly and indirectly with STEM teachers. This process resulted in a robust compilation of STEM teaching information yet.
- *Innovative efforts to recruit the next generation of teachers:* This fall, over 30 100Kin10 partners launched “Blow Minds, Teach STEM,” a campaign to recruit more excellent STEM teachers. Working with the creative geniuses at Cultivated Wit, the Partners co-invested in and co-designed a suite of resources—an animated video, an informational website, and a social media campaign—to attract more STEM teacher candidates with strong STEM skills to Partner programs.

CEO coalition commits to scale effective STEM education programs to 1 million more students by 2016:

In 2010, CEOs from leading American companies answered President Obama's call by forming *Change the Equation*, a partnership of leading companies working together to ensure that every young person can master science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Today, Change the Equation is announcing a new multi-year commitment: to expand some of the nation's most effective STEM education programs to at least 1 million young people across the country by the end of 2016. This new announcement builds on accomplishments that include:

- *A record of successful expansion:* Change the Equation companies have already been making good on their promise by dramatically boosting access to the nation's best STEM education opportunities. In 2014 alone, Change the Equation members expanded some of the nation's most effective STEM education programs to at least 330,000 more young people across the country and counting, many in our nation's low-income communities. This includes (1) expanding access to Project Lead the Way's engineering curriculum to approximately 50,000 more students nationwide, (2) putting approximately 50,000 more young people on a path to more rigorous coursework in math and science through the National Math and Science Initiative's College Readiness Program, (3) helping nearly 50,000 more elementary school students strengthen their grasp of fundamental mathematics with the MIND Research Institute's ST Math, and (4) reaching tens of thousands of elementary school students through new Engineering is Elementary course materials.
- *Driving corporate philanthropic investment to effective programs:* The programs designated as effective have been reviewed against CTEq's Design Principles for Effective STEM Philanthropy and organized in STEMworks, an online database searchable by geography, target audience, STEM subject, and grade level. To date, less than 30 percent of programs that have applied to STEMworks have been admitted. CTEq members want to maintain this high bar. Tens of millions of dollars in support from 44 Change the Equation companies have expanded 21 STEMworks programs in almost every state across the country.
- *Working closely with states:* CTEq is partnering with organizations in three states—Arizona, Colorado, and Iowa—which are using the STEMworks protocols to identify and promote effective STEM education programs in their states. A subset of programs selected for STEMworks will be chosen for scaling up across the state of Iowa by the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, funded by a multi-million dollar pool of private and public investments.
- *Nurturing new promising ideas:* CTEq has begun to identify programs that show promise but need support from partners and funders to realize that promise. These “promising programs” demonstrate they are addressing a critical need in their communities but that may not yet have built the capacity, partnerships or base of evaluation data to be recognized as full-fledged STEMworks programs. Promising programs will have three years to work with community partners and funders to attain full-fledged STEMworks membership.

Discovery Communications launching new “All-American Makers” show to inspire the next generation: Since the launch of *Educate to Innovate*, Discovery Communications has shown a sustained commitment across its brands to promote student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Today, Discovery Communications’ Science Channel is announcing a new original series, “All-American Makers,” world premiering in early 2015. Science Channel’s new series puts five amateur makers in a cross-hair competition against each other. In “All-American Makers” competitors have the opportunity to present a homegrown product to a panel of esteemed engineers and business moguls who judge the product on a series of sustainability factors. The winner, determined in each episode, has the chance to take their product to market and truly live out the “All-American Maker” dream. Students and viewers will get a chance to see each maker’s product put through a series of tests and focus groups, re-tooling and tinkering to explore if their vision matches the consumer demand. This new announcement builds on accomplishments that include:

- *Partnerships that leverage Discovery’s media platform:* This includes (1) creating commercial free kids block on Science Channel hosted by Kari Byron and featuring STEM related content, (2) creating and disseminating STEM Camps, a series of standards-aligned STEM curricula available at no cost for after-school and other learning opportunities; (3) creating a multi-year Science Channel Manufacturing Day partnership to promote jobs in the sciences as they relate to manufacturing; and (4) supporting premier, national student science competitions including the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge and the Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology as well as future partnerships to include Science Channel support.
- *Building a campaign promoting STEM volunteering and mentoring:* Discovery signed on as national media partner to US2020. As a part of this effort, Discovery created and aired a cross-channel public service announcement featuring Kari Byron and highlighting the importance of STEM mentors. Discovery also hosted a day-long conference for the finalists of the US2020 Cities Competition to lend Discovery’s communications and messaging expertise to the coalitions from around the country who are working to build strong STEM mentoring networks in their communities.

Progress Updates Being Announced Today

Volunteer STEM mentoring network grows to 250 organizations working in 10 cities: *US2020* launched at the 2013 White House Science Fair, with the mission to dramatically scale the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students, especially those who have been traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. *US2020* is announcing today that it has built a network of more than 250 organizations in 10 cities actively working together to develop local STEM Mentoring movements, and built a STEM Mentor matching website to facilitate the volunteerism of STEM professionals. This new announcement builds on accomplishments that include:

- *Setting an ambitious goal to rally the corporate community:* All of *US2020*’s work is in service of their core vision: a United States with one million STEM professionals annually mentoring students in meaningful ways by the year 2020. *US2020* has formed

national partnerships with some of the nation's leading STEM companies, all of whom have made substantial commitments to the build the STEM Mentoring movement. These companies include: Chevron, Cisco, Cognizant, Discovery Communications, Raytheon, SanDisk, Tata Consultancy Services and Texas Instruments.

- *Working closely with cities:* In 2013, US2020 ran a competition asking cross-sectoral coalitions from across the country for plans to increase STEM Mentoring in their community. This competition led to the creation of public/private coalitions in 52 cities across the nation and engaged over 600 companies and civic organizations in the work of scaling STEM mentorship. From that competition emerged the US2020 City Network, a collaborative community of city partners developing movements at the local level, including: Allentown, PA; Baton Rouge, LA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Philadelphia, PA; Research Triangle Park, NC; San Francisco, CA; Tulsa, OK; Wichita, KS. The coalitions of these 10 leading cities include over 250 companies and organizations working to connect STEM professionals with opportunities to teach and mentor students.
- *Building a Corps of on-the-ground mobilizers:* US2020 was one of the first recipients of a cohort of AmeriCorps VISTA members as part of the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) new STEM AmeriCorps program. CNCS committed 25 AmeriCorps VISTA members to US2020, an investment of more than \$550,000, and these capacity-builders are now deployed in 8 cities across the country and actively engaging more communities and volunteers in this important work. Through the work of these VISTA members, US2020 is building a blueprint for how service corps members can be a key part of sparking local STEM Mentoring movements.
- *Creating an online platform to match professionals with volunteering opportunities:* In partnership with pro-bono developer Tata Consultancy Services, US2020 is creating an online platform that matches industry professionals with mentoring programs. The platform also includes the use of five core badges that US2020 is implementing in an effort to badge the STEM mentoring field. Hundreds of volunteers have already been matched with quality programs through the US2020 platform and thousands more will be engaged in 2015.
- *Continuing to build the research base:* With funding from an Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Citizen Schools (US2020's parent organization) has launched a randomized, longitudinal study, evaluating whether STEM-focused apprenticeships lead to increased STEM interest and achievement in math and science for middle school students.
- *Creating a media campaign to promote STEM volunteering:* Discovery Communications, US2020's communications partner, developed a Public Service Announcement that highlighted the importance of STEM mentoring and aired nationally across Discovery's portfolio of 13 U.S. networks this fall.

Time Warner Cable reaches goal to connect 1 million students with STEM, and continues growing:

Five years ago, in response to the President's call to action, Time Warner Cable (TWC) launched a new philanthropic initiative, Connect a Million Minds (CAMM), to have parents, mentors and others commit to connecting over one million students to highly-engaging after-school STEM activities. Since then, TWC has provided direct and in-kind investments in excess of its original \$100 million commitment to inspire student interest in STEM subjects, and has reached its goal of connecting one million students to STEM opportunities in their communities. Going forward, TWC will continue connecting students through new and expanded partnerships focused on underserved youth, continued investment in *The Connector* – a database of local STEM opportunities and events - and by leveraging its media assets, which include "It Ain't Rocket Science," an original television series executive produced by Time Warner Cable News NY1. TWC's accomplishments include:

- *Creating a pledge, and resources for parents:* A cornerstone of the Connect a Million Minds (CAMM) initiative has been the CAMM pledge, which challenges parents, mentors, TWC employees and others to introduce a young person in their life to hands on STEM learning opportunities. To support these efforts, and in partnership with the Coalition for Science After School (CSAS), TWC developed The Connector, the first-ever national zip-code searchable database that makes it easy to find local kid-friendly STEM happenings. Today, TWC continues to build connections, with one million minds pledged and counting, and is making further investments in The Connector, which currently includes 5,455 organizations.
- *Leveraging its unique assets:* Over the past five years, TWC has developed over 70 original PSAs dedicated to raising public awareness of the importance of STEM, highlighting TWC nonprofit partners (e.g. *FIRST* Robotics and Boys & Girls Clubs of America), and recognizing customers and employees helping to champion the cause. These PSAs have aired over 100,000 times and represent millions of dollars in donated airtime. Moreover, to date, TWC News and Local Programming produced 26 original half-hour episodes of "It Ain't Rocket Science", which introduces families to STEM events and careers. TWC has also engaged a diverse array of celebrity talent, including Al Gore, will.i.am, Victor Cruz, Magic Johnson, and Anne Burrell, to amplify the message and reach kids in new ways.
- *Engaging employees:* Time Warner Cable employees have donated more than 33,000 hours connecting kids to hands on STEM in their local communities.
- *Increasing public awareness of local STEM opportunities:* Recent research confirms that TWC has made significant in-roads: Individuals who are aware of Connect a Million Minds show a deeper commitment to improving STEM opportunities for youth and those engaged with CAMM are three times more likely to know of 1-5 STEM programs in their community, five times more likely to know 6-10 and seven times more likely to know of more than 10.

Non-profit announces that it has given more than 190,000 young people and families

opportunities to make and learn: The Maker Education Initiative (Maker Ed) launched in May 2012 in response to President Obama’s campaign with its vision of “Every Child a Maker.”

Today, Maker Ed is announcing that it has already served more than 190,000 young people and families with opportunities to develop confidence, creativity, and interest in science, technology, engineering, math, art, and learning as a whole through making. This announcement is possible due to Maker Ed’s rapid growth and innovative model, including:

- *Placing “Makers” in youth serving organizations nationwide:* Maker Ed developed a *Maker Corps* program to increase the capacity of youth serving organizations nationwide to engage youth and families in making. The *Maker Corps* program continues to exhibit the power of its professional development model. In just two seasons, more than 230 *Maker Corps* members have worked with 49 host sites in 24 states. In the summer of 2013, *Maker Corps* Members impacted more than 90,000 young people and families, and Maker Ed expect more than 100,000 people will be impacted by the program in 2014.
- *Close partnership with AmeriCorps:* Maker Ed also worked with the Corporation for National and Community Service on their “Educate to Innovate” commitment by becoming one of their first *AmeriCorps* STEM partners in summer 2013. Since then, Maker Ed has placed 17 VISTA members and a VISTA leader in 9 communities across the country. Through their role as capacity builders, VISTA members act as community connectors and document the essential elements to sustain thriving maker communities in high poverty areas.
- *Working with teachers:* Moving forward, Maker Ed plans to support their growing network of educators through professional development, community building, and dissemination of effective program models and educational research efforts.

Department of Education continues an agency-wide effort to support STEM learning, led by a newly formed Office of STEM Education:

Since 2013, with the release of the Federal 5-year Strategic Plan for STEM Education, the Department of Education has helped lead cross-agency efforts on K-12 STEM Instruction, supporting collaboration across the Federal government and by leveraging public-private partnerships. In 2014, the Department created a new Office of STEM Education, housed within the Office of Innovation and Improvement with five full-time staff. This new office and team will build on important successes over the past five years, where the Department of Education has added a STEM priority in over 60 ED grant programs, creating a wide range of opportunities for innovators in the field to promote STEM education. Some of these include:

- *Magnet Schools Assistance Program*, which provides grants to school districts to establish and operate magnet schools to address issues of equity. The 2013 competition included a competitive preference priority on STEM to provide students with increased access to rigorous coursework in STEM and to increase opportunities for the high-quality preparation of, or professional development for, teachers or other educators of STEM subjects. This \$89.8 million competition resulted in 27 grantees in 12 states funding 111 magnet schools, 92 of which have a STEM, and STEM and Arts theme.

- *Teacher Incentive Fund STEM*, which is designed to support efforts to develop and implement performance-based teacher and principal compensation systems in high-need schools, with a particular focus on science, technology, engineering and math. In 2012, \$84.3 million went to support six grantees working in 95 schools and 13 school districts nationwide to improve human capital management systems and teacher leadership opportunities in STEM.
- *21st Century Community Learning Centers*, which supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. A STEM focus was added to this program in 2013, resulting in a pilot partnership with NASA involving three states, 26 sites to engage students in hands-on engineering challenges. This fall 21CCLC plans to expand the partnership with NASA, as well as create new opportunities with both the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences and the National Park Service.
- *Teacher Quality Partnerships*, which aims to increase student achievement by improving the quality of new prospective teachers. The 2014 competition included a STEM priority to increase the opportunities for high-quality preparation of, or professional development for, teachers or other educators of STEM subjects. As a result, \$35 million was awarded to 24 grantees and will support 11,000 teachers over the next five years.

Campaign for STEM education for military-impacted students continues to grow: A partner since 2009, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) announced today that it has mobilized \$27 million in public and private funds to support STEM learning for students of military families as part of the national Joining Forces effort lead by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden. After just one year of NMSI's three-year College Readiness Program, students in NMSI's military-connected partner schools show an 85% increase in qualifying Advanced Placement (AP) math and science exam scores—more than 10 times the national average. This builds on an impressive record of overall growth:

- *Rapid scaling of AP STEM program across the US:* Since 2009, the NMSI's College Readiness Program has expanded to 628 schools across 25 states and the District of Columbia, broadening access to and achievement in rigorous AP coursework in math, science and English and better preparing students for STEM majors and careers. Notably, 78 of NMSI's partner schools now support students of military families.
- *Meeting the unique needs of military children:* The focus on military-connected students provides needed learning continuity for children whose parents may be re-assigned during the school year and helps ensure that STEM talent is developed and near our military bases. Importantly, these positive outcomes are sustained over time. After three years of the program, the increase in qualifying math and science exam scores among NMSI partner schools is nearly 6 times the national average. As an example of the program's success, NMSI's two schools serving military families in Mississippi

accounted for 54% of the entire state's gains in qualifying AP scores in the 2013-14 school year.

Institute of Museum and Library Services continues innovative STEM education grant-making and partnerships: Since 2009, IMLS has launched a series of high-profile partnerships are designed to promote STEM learning for students at museums and libraries across the country. Today, IMLS announced that in the last two years of grant funding, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has invested more than \$23 million in 140 STEM-related projects. Their accomplishments include:

- *Creating more spaces for students STEM learning:* In 2010, IMLS and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation responded to President Obama's campaign by providing new opportunities for libraries and museums to create physical and digital spaces that apply the latest research findings about young people's media practices. A new publication, *Libraries and Museums: Transformative Spaces for Teens*, describes lessons learned, new models and practices and the impact of Learning Labs planning grantees in 24 cities and counties.
- *Helping get more students digitally literate:* IMLS and the Mozilla Foundation have worked to help libraries and museums collaborate with other community organizations to host maker parties—volunteer-led events that teach web literacy through play and hands-on making. The goal of this partnership is to teach the culture, mechanics, and citizenship of the web—key skills for the future. In addition, Mozilla has trained 100 librarians and museum professionals via online training as digital literacy skills trainers.

Building a STEM AmeriCorps that continues to support more organizations and communities: In 2013, the President announced the launch of STEM AmeriCorps, an initiative administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). STEM AmeriCorps seeks to increase the placement of AmeriCorps members and resources at in-school and out-of-school programs across the country to increase student interest and engagement in STEM subjects. As a result, through the AmeriCorps VISTA program, CNCS invested in building the capacity of the Maker Education Initiative, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), and US2020 to bring Making and STEM education opportunities to children who might not otherwise have access. Additional details include:

- *FIRST and AmeriCorps VISTA:* CNCS has placed 50 full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members per year with FIRST, a nonprofit founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people through robotics competitions. They recruit volunteers and support teams of students to participate in FIRST competitions, making it possible for more students to gain exposure to the STEM fields. FIRST's AmeriCorps VISTA members serve in states across the country, including Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Arizona, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee, Colorado, Texas, and Washington, DC.
- *Innovative use of state guidance to serve 18,000 more students with STEM opportunities:*

One of CNCS's most recent contributions to STEM education came in the summer of 2014 as part of a major expansion of STEM AmeriCorps. CNCS leadership asked states to identify and invest in STEM education projects. CNCS placed over 250 AmeriCorps VISTA members in six Southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia. These AmeriCorps VISTA members connected approximately 18,000 at-risk students in low-performing schools to STEM learning opportunities. The AmeriCorps members served with community groups, educational institutions, and corporate sponsors that are committed to sharing their expertise to inspire new discovery and increase the students' chances for academic achievement. This initiative made it possible for students to learn about and build robots, engage with community members to solve challenging STEM tasks, write code that will be uploaded to the International Space Station, participate in a "scientist-for-a-day" program that explores various careers, and learn about food production.

Rapid growth for new student coding competition, reaching thousands of students yearly:

Inspired by President Obama's Educate to Innovate campaign, the National STEM Video Game Challenge was launched at the White House in September 2010. The Challenge aims to motivate interest in STEM learning among youth by tapping into their natural passions for playing and making video games. Today, organizers of the competition announced metrics for its rapid growth: 35% increase over the previous year, with over 5,000 students initiating a game design, and girls representing 34% of all participants. This builds on an impressive record over the past four years, including:

- *Diverse coalition of supporters:* Now in its fourth year, the STEM Challenge, is executed by Smithsonian in partnership with the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, and E-Line Media, with ongoing support of its founding sponsor, the Entertainment Software Association, with additional support provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Grable Foundation, AARP, and Mentor Up.
- *Ongoing engagement at the community level:* The Challenge includes game design workshops for youth, educators, and parents in communities across the country, with approximately 20 cities receiving workshops in the coming months. The workshops will feature guidance from game industry professionals for students to learn how to design video games. Additionally, the AARP will support a series of community workshops to encourage intergenerational learning and game design, and IMLS will sponsor workshops at libraries and museums. Moreover, game design professionals answered questions via the STEM Challenge website and directly engaged with teachers, school technology coordinators and advisors, and school districts to raise the visibility of the STEM Challenge among students.

Effort to connect STEM students to their global peers grows to 90 partners and 50

countries: In May 2014 at the White House Science Fair, the New York Academy of Sciences announced a new initiative called the *Global STEM Alliance* to connect STEM students from around the world with each other and with leading scientists through a mix of site-based activities, a collaborative digital platform and a social learning network. Today, the New York

Academy of Sciences is announcing that it has enlisted 90 partners and 50 countries that will be actively engaged this work. This builds on progress that includes:

- Major expansion at the UN: At the UN General Assembly, the Global STEM Alliance grew substantially, with commitments from heads of state, corporate leaders, educators and philanthropists committed to reach 1 million students in 100 countries by 2020.
- Focus on increasing participation of girls: The first initiatives of the Global STEM Alliance are the Junior Academy, an online social learning program for the most gifted students throughout the world, and a commitment made at the Clinton Global initiative called a *1000 Girls-1000 Futures* that will seek to engage a greater number of girls and women in STEM careers.

Campaign to get more Latino students excited about STEM subjects kicks-off with 300 events around the country: Earlier this year, as part of Educate to Innovate, Universal's Hispanic Enterprises and Content announced a new nationwide campaign, *Aprender es Triunfar*, aimed at closing the Latino student achievement gap, especially in STEM education. A central pillar of the campaign was the release of *Underwater Dreams*, a new documentary film that highlights young Hispanic high school students excelling in a STEM competition against MIT. Key steps taken since the summer announcement include:

- National tour: Starting in September, producers of *Underwater Dreams* began a 100 City Tour with AMC Theaters, which offered up free community screenings across the country to schools, non-profits and other community groups serving young people, with 300 events expected by end of the year. The film received a positive reception, including the appearance of one of the students profiled in the film and the film's director on *The Colbert Report*.
- Back-to-school effort: To support the many schools and institutions which are screening *Underwater Dreams*, CUNY is developing extensive curriculum around the film and is planning a series of events for all students comprising the CUNY community to see the film. In addition, Queens College is developing an initiative around the film for its own students as well as several area high schools. Various corporate underwriters have hosted screenings of the film for educators in different states. The producers of *Underwater Dreams* are also in the process of partnering with corporate sponsors and First Book to put the educational version of the film into the hands of Title I educators across the country.
- Growing community of partners: New partners include DREAM.US, a scholarship fund established to help undocumented students, and Voto Latino, which has a Innovator's Campaign with the MacArthur Foundation where students using technology to solve social problems.

###