



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

National STEM conference to tackle challenges, focus on solutions

Washington, DC—May 10, 2012—In the United States today, there is an urgent and far-reaching need for a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Filling the need is key to carrying the country into a healthy economic future, experts say, and it's time to figure out some answers.

Enter STEM Solutions 2012, a groundbreaking leadership summit held in Dallas, Texas this summer, June 27-29. For the first time on a national stage, leading educators, top policymakers, major corporations and education technology companies will convene to determine the strategies, policies and collective changes that are needed to cultivate a competitive STEM workforce in the United States.

The three-day summit will be “a conference focused on creating solutions,” according to Brian Kelly, Editor and Chief Content Officer for *U.S. News & World Report*, one of the co-producers of the event. “It’s not just going to be a conversation about the STEM shortage,” he said “It’s our goal with this symposium to achieve specific outcomes that will advance the STEM initiative and work to solve the challenges we’re facing.”

Kelly cites five specific objectives of the conference:

- Facilitate the matching of supply and demand through a data-driven marketplace that accurately reflects employment needs and skill requirements.
- Communicate with educators and policymakers about the skill-specific innovation that is needed in the classroom and beyond.
- Form a national leadership consensus on how to implement successful programs on a national scale.

- Showcase what's working by highlighting the industry, government and education partners that are currently most effective at aligning skills with jobs.
- Increase public and political awareness of the growing disparity between job skills and employer need, and the detrimental impact it has on the U.S. economy and society.

Curriculum for the 2012 conference, entitled "STEM Means Jobs," corrals the broad array of STEM workforce issues into five tracks that dovetail with the summit's core outcomes. The "Demand Side" track addresses America's immediate need for "three million jobs in three years"; the "Supply Side" track will tackle the education issue as it relates to America's STEM future; "Seeking the Best Return on Investment" celebrates programs that are working now and will determine how to raise the bar; "Policy, A Start but Not a Finish" trains the light on policymaking and what more should be done; and the "Communications" track will work to raise awareness and change public perception of the initiative.

STEM Solutions 2012 has the commitment of more than a dozen heavy-hitting sponsors, such as AT&T, Boeing, Dell and National Science Foundation, as well as 50 contributing co-chair organizations. Thousands of thought leaders from all aspects of the STEM initiative are expected to be on hand to add their voices and perspectives to the discussion. "Business execs, HR managers, educators, policymakers, non-profits, tech companies—they're all united in their goal to promote improvements in STEM education so we can advance the science-related workforce in the U.S.," Kelly said. "By having involvement and participation from the full range of stakeholders throughout the country, we believe this conference will make significant progress on a national level to bridge the gap between employers and job-seekers."

Anyone with a stake in developing a robust STEM workforce in the United States is invited to be part of this groundbreaking event. Early registration discounts expire on May 4, 2012, so interested parties are encouraged to act quickly for best rates.

To learn more about how you can help shape our nation's future by participating in STEM Solutions 2012, visit <http://www.USNewsStemSolutions.com/>.

For up-to-date information on the conference, sponsorship opportunities, exhibition space or registration, visit <http://www.USNewsStemSolutions.com>. Follow STEM Solutions 2012 on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/USNewsStemsSolutions>.

U.S. News STEM Solutions 2012—A Leadership Summit is a mission-critical event focused on the shortage of science- and tech-related skills in the American workforce. U.S. News & World Report, together with Innovate+Educate STEMConnector™ and more than 60 key organizations will bring together for the first time on a national stage major corporations, leading educators, top policy makers and education technology companies to create a collective that will fill jobs now and advance the future STEM workforce. Held June 27 – 29, 2012 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

U.S. News & World Report is a print and digital publisher of news and information in the areas of politics, policy, education, health care, personal finance and other topics of consumer interest.

Innovate+Educate is a national non-profit led by Fortune 500 companies with a goal of aligning STEM education and workforce efforts on a state-by-state basis.

STEMConnector™ is a resource center and network that helps bring together the many STEM projects around the country with a website of more than 3,000 organizations dedicated to STEM education; jobs and diversity are key priorities.

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