



For Immediate Release  
March 13, 2013

Media Contacts: Kim Smith Hicks, Zachary Kurz  
(202) 225-6371

**Statement of Research Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)  
Hearing on STEM Education: Industry and Philanthropic Initiatives**

**Chairman Bucshon:** Good Morning. I want to welcome everyone to today's Research Subcommittee hearing on the role of industry and philanthropic efforts relating to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, education.

As a cardiothoracic surgeon and father, I understand that STEM programs and initiatives are important. I believe STEM education is an essential element in America's economic growth and competitiveness. According to the National Science Board's 2012 Science and Engineering Indicators, over the past twenty-five years the science and engineering workforce has more than doubled in size and currently represents over four percent of all U.S. jobs. And job losses from the 2007 to 2009 recession have been relatively less severe for those in science and engineering related jobs compared to the U.S. workforce overall.

The federal government spends over 3 billion dollars per year across 13 federal agencies on STEM initiatives and projects. A GAO report completed in January of 2012 concluded a need for strategic planning to better manage the overlap of federal STEM programs. GAO suggested the Office of Science and Technology Policy should work with agencies and produce a government wide strategy for STEM initiatives that ensures efficiency and eliminates duplication and ineffective programs. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 required the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on STEM to develop and implement a five-year STEM education strategic plan to specify and prioritize annual and long-term objectives and describe the role of each federal agency supporting STEM programs and activities.

My hope is that this strategic plan will benefit the overall success of federal STEM initiatives, education and development. However, as we consider federal support for STEM education we must also recognize the importance of private sector and non-profit collaborations to STEM education. As we move forward with COMPETES reauthorization, we can draw on the expertise of industry and philanthropic initiatives to ensure taxpayer dollars are not duplicating efforts and are being used in the most efficient and effective manner.

Our witnesses today offer the insight of their industry and philanthropic contributions to STEM education. These organizations work with students in K-12 education as well undergraduate and graduate students, they also work with STEM teachers and mentors, and offer tools for STEM classrooms. I would like to thank all of our witnesses for their time and offering us insight into the private sector-STEM relationship. I look forward to hearing about their work.

###