



**Association for
Computing Machinery**

Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

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**ACM POLICY GROUP APPLAUDS CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF INCREASED INVESTMENT
IN RESEARCH**

USACM Says Innovations in Computing Drive Economic Growth and Competitiveness

NEW YORK, February 18, 2009 – As Congress voted to approve the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ACM’s Public Policy Committee ([USACM](#)) hailed the measure’s renewed commitment to science and technology innovation as a key driver of economic growth in the United States. USACM commended Congress’s intent to transform the economy with expanded investments in basic research and development for several key federal agencies and departments, and pointed to computer science as uniquely positioned to spur economic recovery.

“The computing field has a long history of creating revolutionary technologies that have helped drive U.S. leadership in the world economy,” said Eugene H. Spafford, USACM Chair and Director of the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance at Purdue University. “The computing community can cite concrete examples of how advances in information technology lead to breakthroughs that enable productivity growth and even create whole new industries. This dynamic can lead to an economy running at full capacity, enabling more efficient allocation of goods and services, which, in turn, produces higher quality goods and services.”

Spafford noted that innovation is the key to long-term economic security and renewed technology leadership as well. “Wise investments in science and engineering research as well as in math and science education will create a stronger, more resilient economy and a more highly skilled workforce. And by investing in scientific research facilities, we will be able to create new jobs in a variety of trades and manufacturing while also expanding the horizons of a whole generation of young scientists and engineers,” he added.

USACM pointed to increased investment for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, the Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy (ARPA-E),

the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), recipients of funding that will directly support innovation.

About ACM

ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery www.acm.org, is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.

About USACM

The ACM U.S. Public Policy Committee (USACM) <http://www.acm.org/usacm> serves as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology. Supported by ACM's Washington, D.C., [Office of Public Policy](#), USACM responds to requests for information and technical expertise from U.S. government agencies and departments, seeks to influence relevant U.S. government policies on behalf of the computing community and the public, and provides information to ACM on relevant U.S. government activities. USACM also identifies potentially significant technical and public policy issues and brings them to the attention of ACM and the community.

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