COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SURVEY ON K-12 STEM EDUCATION

In preparation for reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, the Committee on Science and Technology seeks to solicit input from stakeholders in the STEM education community regarding K-12 STEM education programs across the federal R&D agencies. Please provide answers to the following questions:

1) What should be the primary mission of the National Science Foundation at the K-12 level? What do you see as the appropriate balance between funding for basic research on education versus education program development/implementation grants at NSF?

2) What should be the primary mission of the science agencies other than NSF (DOE, NASA, NOAA, EPA, NIST, NIH) regarding K-12 STEM education? Should the agencies primarily be focused on developing the STEM content knowledge of students (and/or teachers), or should they be dedicating their scientific and intellectual resources toward programs designed to inspire and excite children and the general public about STEM? Or should both be priorities for these agencies?

3) Please rank in order of importance, the areas you feel the mission agencies should place priority on within their K-12 STEM programming. Please feel free to elaborate on any of the categories as you rank them.
   a. informal education
   b. training and professional development opportunities for pre-service and in-service K-12 teachers
   c. curriculum development
   d. partnering with or "adoopting" schools or school districts through the geographically dispersed network of national labs and research facilities
   e. helping to build specialty schools in STEM through the geographically dispersed network of national labs and research facilities.
   f. supporting and coordinating volunteerism among the federal STEM workforce
   g. bringing students (especially secondary school students) into national labs and research facilities for structured summer research experiences
   h. other (please clarify)

4) Should the above priorities vary in order across the different science agencies? If so, please provide your answer to the question above for each of the agencies.

5) Do you have any thoughts on how programs, materials and opportunities for students and teachers at the agencies can be better disseminated to schools and the general public across the country?

6) In what ways could the federal government support improving metrics or measures of success for evaluating STEM education programs? Are existing mechanisms sufficient for the public (and those interested in identifying best practices for replicating or expanding programs) to select programs to meet intended goals?
7) Short of guaranteeing indefinite financial support, what role can the agencies play in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the successful programs they fund? How can proven-effective K-12 STEM education programs be continued and maintained after the initial funding period is over, and how can the agencies encourage and support mechanisms designed to ensure the sustainability of these programs?

8) Last year the House passed H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. The Committee plans to incorporate that legislation into the larger COMPETES Reauthorization. Do you have any comments about H.R. 1709 and/or suggestions regarding improved interagency coordination of federal K-12 STEM education programs?

9) Do you have other additional recommendations or feedback regarding K-12 STEM education at the science agencies, including specific recommendations that we should consider for legislation?

Please provide all responses, via email, to Bess Caughran at bess.caughran@mail.house.gov. Participants are welcome to remain anonymous but we would prefer that contact information be provided for follow-up purposes.