



November 13, 2009

Re: San Diego Regional K-12 STEM Forum

Dear Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) stakeholders,

The San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and San Diego Science Alliance are joining efforts to support successful K-12 STEM education programs. We write to invite you to participate in a symposium to identify funding and other project support opportunities.

Our interest in programs such as yours is simple: In 2009, the San Diego gross regional product will be an estimated \$172 billion dollars, placing the region in the top 41 global economies. San Diego's economy has grown and diversified through the development of new high-tech industry clusters alongside the region's historic economic strengths.

Our regional challenge is to prepare local students with the necessary skills to fill these high-wage industries that require high-proficiency levels in math and science. According to the 2008 BEST report *What's Working: A Guide to Effective Programs in K-12 Mathematics and Science Education in San Diego County*¹, "less than 40% of regional high school graduates meet the math and science requirements for admission to the University of California and California State University systems."

As one of the K-12 STEM education programs in San Diego County, we would like to invite you to attend a three-part series of meetings that will be organized under the following format:

1. Convene program providers to identify resources STEM organizations need to have a greater impact.
2. Convene educational administrators to identify their priorities and how STEM initiatives supplement school curriculum.
3. Convene grant makers and corporate givers to identify potential resources.

Additionally, we propose an alignment of our efforts with the San Diego Foundation's Science and Technology Working Group. They are planning a grant competition for STEM initiatives that will enable qualified programs to build portfolios documenting their successes. Their initiative will begin with a workshop on evaluation strategies and tactics, followed by grants to fund evaluation projects.

¹ Commissioned by The San Diego Foundation

Ultimately, our goal, like your own, is to increase regional STEM capacity and achievement. We believe this goal can be attained through cooperation and strategic planning efforts. Please join us in our endeavors to plan for future prosperity and a knowledge-based workforce. We welcome your comments and participation.

To indicate your interest and participation, and/or suggest any other appropriate program participants, please respond to Margaret Beauchamp at mb@sandiegobusiness.org or (619) 234-8484. Please limit your registration to one or two person(s) from your program.

Best Regards,



Andrew Poat
San Diego Regional EDC



Nancy Taylor
San Diego Science Alliance