

OPENING STATEMENT

The Honorable Mo Brooks (R-AL), Chairman

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education

What Makes for Successful K-12 STEM Education: A Closer Look at Effective STEM Education Approaches

October 12, 2011

Good morning, and welcome to each of our witnesses. The purpose of today's hearing is to review and examine the findings of the National Academies report, *Successful K-12 STEM Education: Identifying Effective Approaches in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, as requested in 2009 by then Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Frank Wolf to identify highly successful K-12 schools and programs in STEM. He is now the Chairman, and I am pleased to have him join us today and look forward to working with him on STEM education and other areas of the federal science budget that our Subcommittees share.

Before I yield a few minutes to Chairman Wolf, let me just say I believe the findings of this report reveal many things that we already know about what it takes to have a successful K-12 STEM school. A number of these success stories are highlighted in the report. And while research gaps continue to exist, getting this helpful information into the hands of state education departments and local school districts is important, because that is where real change takes place. Whether we are preparing students for advanced degrees in STEM or ensuring that young adults have the scientific and mathematic literacy to thrive in a 21st century technology-based economy, the foundation for both of these begins in our K-12 schools. I look forward to hearing from all of witnesses today about their contributions to this report as well as their contributions for improving K-12 STEM education in the United States.

With that, I yield the remainder of my time to Chairman Wolf.