

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on Private Sector Programs that Engage Students in STEM**

Chairman Bucshon: I am happy to call to order the first Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing of the year. Today we will learn about private sector initiatives in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education and how these companies, businesses and organizations engage students in these important fields.

A report released by the National Science Board in 2012 indicates that the science and engineering workforce historically grows faster than the total workforce. Although the science and engineering growth rate has maintained a higher rate than the total workforce, the last decade has seen much lower growth.

One of the most essential aspects to keeping America at the forefront of STEM innovation, advancement and development is engaging students at a young age and keeping them interested in pursuing STEM degrees and careers.

As a cardiothoracic surgeon and father of four children between the ages of 9 and 20, I understand that such programs and activities are necessary to enhance America's economic growth and competitiveness.

With the federal government spending nearly \$3 billion dollars across thirteen federal agencies on STEM education programs each year, we must ensure the government is leveraging rather than duplicating private sector STEM education initiatives.

Our hearing today will provide a unique opportunity for our first panel of witnesses to discuss the innovative projects and programs taking place at their private sector business and educational institutions, and for our second panel of witnesses to discuss their personal experiences with these types of initiatives.

I look forward to hearing from all of our witnesses and I would like to thank them for their participation and offering their time and insight into the private sector's success in STEM education.

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