

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2005

***Help Educate the Future Workforce!  
Join the Senate Caucus on  
Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Education***

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairmen of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Caucus, we would like to invite you to be part of our efforts to improve science, technology, engineering and math education across the country by joining this newly formed bipartisan caucus. With increasing demands on our economy, workforce, and national security, STEM education is more important than ever. This bipartisan caucus of Senators will focus on STEM education issues and their role in the U.S. workforce, economy and national security and will offer a forum for information, discussion and action on these issues.

America's economic strength is rooted in its ability to innovate. A strong education in science, technology, engineering and math skills equip our students not just to hold their own but to advance the frontiers in fields important to our economy and security. Historically, the quality of such education in the U.S. has been the envy of the world. But in recent years, indicators suggest that the rest of the world is catching up. According to assessment tests, one-third of U.S. students perform below basic levels of proficiency in science and math. At the advanced level, only two out of every 100 high school graduates will obtain an engineering or advanced degree, and the numbers are even more dismal when examining women and minorities who choose to study math and science.

Here at home, we are seeing the growing demands of an evolving workforce. STEM education does not stop once students graduate from high school, college or graduate school. The U. S. Department of Labor projects that new jobs requiring science, engineering and technical training will increase four times faster than the average national job growth rate. In order to remain competitive in a global workforce, our existing jobs will require increased STEM skills. As we know, education is a lifelong pursuit. The more support we can provide to help keep our workforce on the cutting edge, the more robust our economy will be.

The recent Hart-Rudman Commission report stated: "The inadequacies of our systems of research and education pose a greater threat to U.S. national security over the next quarter century than any potential conventional war that we might imagine." You can help combat this threat. We would welcome your participation. To join, talk to either of us or ask your staff to contact Mickie Flores (Senator Durbin) at 4-3847 or Lauri Hettinger (Senator Coleman) at 4-5641.

Sincerely,



Norm Coleman  
United States Senate



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate