Dear Colleagues,

I write to encourage all of you to take part in National Lab Day - a grassroots initiative to reinvigorate science and math education in our nation's schools and after-school programs.

To those of us who work at the Department of Energy, the name can be a little confusing. This is not about our National Laboratories -- although many staff and contractors from our labs are participating. It is instead a nationwide movement to inspire scientists, engineers, and other professionals to work with educators to bring hands-on science projects to students in grades K-12.

Beginning on Wednesday, May 12, scientists and engineers across the country will pair with local schools to conduct discovery-based science experiences. But this effort is bigger than just one day; it promotes hands-on learning throughout the year. I urge you to consider lending a hand at a project in your local area, and you can find a list of projects at: http://www.nationallabday.org/projects/live

As you know, we need a bold new generation of scientists and engineers to make America competitive in this century and to tackle the great challenges that we will face. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to make a difference in the lives of our young people and the future of our nation.

I hope you will join me in helping to prepare our future scientists and engineers.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu