

[Date]

Dear [Name of Elected Official],

Inspired by a desire to engage and prepare our youth and future workforce for the careers of tomorrow, the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and its science center and museum members from across the country have committed to a pioneering national science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) literacy initiative called the *Youth Inspired Challenge*.



As [Title] of [Institution Name], and as a member of ASTC, I am proud to dedicate our efforts towards this exciting endeavor and hope to work closely with you to accomplish our goals. [Institution Name] is working in partnership with over 300 science centers and museums across the country as part of a national imperative to prepare America's students to graduate ready for both college and careers in STEM fields. Our collective goal is to provide 2 million hours of science enrichment activities to at least 25,000 students, ages 10-19, by building on successful after-school and internship programs with a focus on promoting self-esteem and academic skills through informal science learning.

By raising the visibility of these diverse science enrichment opportunities and documenting their impact, the *Youth Inspired Challenge* will increase the resources that science centers and museums provide to assist our nation's youth in becoming the innovative, creative, and engaged workforce that America needs to meet the challenges and demands of the 21st century. We are ensuring that scientific exploration is available to everyone by putting these disciplines literally within grasp. In short, we are cultivating and nurturing America's future leaders.

We are proud of our commitment and would like to request a brief meeting at your convenience to share with you and your staff a few more details about our local efforts and plans to uphold our pledge. We would also appreciate the opportunity to keep you updated and apprised of our efforts to promote a strong and innovative STEM workforce. Finally, it would be extremely helpful to us if you might consider writing us a letter of support, and/or submitting a statement into the *Congressional Record* to highlight our dedication to the *Youth Inspired Challenge* and the cultivation of young scientists.

If we can ever serve as a resource for you in your efforts to promote a commitment to science and technology in the community we share, please do not hesitate to call upon me directly. Our team stands by and is ready to provide any data or information you may need.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the *Youth Inspired Challenge* and for your commitment to improving the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics literacy of all of our students.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

[Name]

