

[Date]

Dear Editor,

Even a few decades ago, who would have imagined what our workforce would look like today? In 1900, only one out of every ten workers was in a professional, technical, or managerial occupation. By 1970, that proportion had doubled, and today, science-related jobs account for nearly one-third of our workforce. The handwriting is on the wall: we now live in a society dominated by technology, and we no longer have a choice whether or not to invest in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) literacy of all of America's students.



Despite a recession, elevated unemployment, and an unpredictable economy, there is still much to look forward to in our future workforce. We continue to move towards an economy that is only bridled by the creativity of our minds. That is why the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and over 300 of its science center and museum members throughout the country – including [Institution Name] – have made a commitment to promote a strong STEM workforce by supporting the **Youth Inspired Challenge**.

The initiative's 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 programs and internships that focus on promoting self-esteem and enhancing students' academic skills through formal and informal science learning experiences. It should be a national imperative to prepare [State, City, or Community Name] – and the nation's – students to graduate ready for both college and career paths in STEM fields. In short, our steadfast commitment is to invest in these disciplines in order to bring quality education to more people, while promoting and sustaining local communities and economies.

Leaders in the public and private sectors need to come together to achieve the ambitious, yet critical, objective of scientific enrichment for the betterment of communities here and across the country. For this reason, [Institution Name] is energized to join the **Youth Inspired Challenge** and be an integral part of the unique opportunity to work in partnership with parents, educators, schools, and local businesses to ensure that students get the hands-on experiences and confidence they will need to work in various technologies, and to evoke interest in these exciting careers.

America's science centers and museums are cultivating and nurturing America's future leaders. And through our collective efforts, we can offer the guidance our young people need in order to establish themselves as critical thinkers and dedicated citizens, seeking a solid economic future and a great quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

