



ASA Resolution 109-101

Importance of STEM Education to Aerospace

WHEREAS, the foundation of America's leadership in the 21st century knowledge based, innovation-driven global economy is built upon a scientific, technically qualified, and numerically literate workforce;

WHEREAS, the proportion of STEM related degrees conferred from U.S. colleges and universities has declined from 32 percent of all degrees awarded in 1995 to 27 percent of all degrees awarded in 2004;

WHEREAS, the vitality of the aerospace industry in the United States is essential to the national security and the economic prosperity of the nation;

WHEREAS, the aerospace industry relies upon a highly-skilled, technically qualified workforce to accomplish its mission;

WHEREAS, the number of STEM-qualified, new entrants into the aerospace workforce is projected to be insufficient to fill the workforce pipeline creating a gap;

WHEREAS, a lack of teachers qualified to teach STEM subjects, inadequate high school preparation, and a lack of relevancy in education have led to a decline in the number of American workers holding STEM degrees;

WHEREAS, teacher professional development in science and mathematics leads to greater student achievement in STEM-related disciplines;

WHEREAS, rigorous Career Technical Education in high schools prepares students for both higher education and the workforce by providing tangible relevant skills for increased subject matter retention and competency;

WHEREAS, legislation, H.R. 6104, the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Act of 2008, has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and has attracted bi-partisan support;

WHEREAS, the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Act of 2008 calls for improving the coordination of federal STEM programs through the creation of a Committee on STEM education within the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, coordinating STEM education efforts at the US Department of Education, creating a State Consortium on STEM education, and improving the dissemination of STEM education research, best practices, and exemplary programs through the National STEM Education Research Repository;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the States aim to encourage teacher professional development opportunities for all math and science teachers in K-Higher Education;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that States coordinate Community College Systems with the aerospace industry to address workforce issues with STEM and career technical education; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ASA calls on all members of Congress to support HR 6104, the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Act of 2008.

The Honorable Brian Dubie, Vermont Lt. Governor,
Chair, Aerospace States Association