

(October 3, 2007) Rep. Lipinski Calls on Congress to Enact National Science Board Recommendations

Rep. Lipinski Calls on Congress to Enact National Science Board Recommendations for Improving Education

Seeks to Bolster Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education in Schools

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Rep. Dan Lipinski assisted the National Science Board in unveiling the much anticipated national action plan for 21st century STEM - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics - education in a briefing at the U.S. Capitol. Among the recommendations, the Board proposed that Congress charter an independent, non-Federal National Council for STEM education in order to ensure increased coordination of STEM education across the nation and an adequate supply of highly effective, well compensated teachers in these fields.

"In my position as Vice Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, I have worked to improve funding and pass critical legislation aimed at advancing STEM education," stated Lipinski. "Today, I call on Congress to adopt the vital recommendations outlined in this report and continue our dedication to fields that are crucial to the futures of America's children."

The National Action Plan for Addressing the Critical Needs of the U.S. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education System lays out strategies to encourage collaboration among stakeholders from local, state, and federal governments, as well as nongovernmental STEM education groups. Other recommendations center on voluntary national STEM content guidelines, alignment of STEM learning across grade levels, increased STEM teacher compensation, and the role of higher education. The goal is to ensure that all American students receive the skills and knowledge required for success in the 21st century.

One year ago Rep. Lipinski addressed a meeting of the National Science Board on the topic of STEM education. His

comments factored into the recommendations outlined within the Board's STEM education report.

"As a former college professor and one of only a handful of members of Congress with an engineering degree, I have a unique perspective on this issue," stated Lipinski. "There is nothing more important to our future than having the best math and science teachers available to inspire and guide our next generation of leaders in science and industry. We must do more to ensure that more highly qualified teachers are in the classroom. Investing in the education of our youth in science, technology, engineering, and math is essential to our children's future and our nation's continued prosperity."