

Securing America's Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Initiative

The Business-Higher Education Forum's 2007 Action Agenda

Programmatic

- The Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) will develop strategies for policymakers and leaders from business and higher education to address the national shortage of K-12 mathematics and science teaching workforce. Efforts will culminate with the publication of seven recommendations to strengthen America's K-12 mathematics and science teaching workforce. Recommendations will focus on three key factors: teacher recruitment, retention, and renewal.
- BHEF will identify promising interventions to increase student interest and achievement in mathematics and science during the middle school years. BHEF will generate a set of recommendations on this topic, including specific strategies for business and higher education.
- BHEF will advance an agenda to increase student interest, enrollment and persistence in STEM majors and careers. The agenda will urge universities and corporations to improve student transfers from two-year to four-year institutions, reform STEM curricula to better align with workforce expectations and the needs of the global economy, and improve teaching and learning in these disciplines.
- Raytheon will use a systems engineering approach to model students' progression through K-12 and postsecondary education. The research will identify key influencers in the flow of students into STEM disciplines and careers and attempt to ascertain those interventions with the greatest payoff. The model will be made available to BHEF and other entities using an open architecture design so that others may contribute to refining the model.

Advocacy/Outreach

- BHEF will host a national summit with collaborating partners to share best practices and policies to strengthen the STEM educational pipeline. The summit will use findings from the STEM Working Group's research, including Raytheon's systems modeling efforts, to identify high-leverage approaches to increasing student achievement, college preparation, interest in STEM careers, and K-12 teaching.

- Advocate for STEM legislation and increased investments at the federal and state level relating to teaching, middle school and postsecondary education. BHEF will pursue the following activities: engage in congressional outreach, support regional and state effort, and collaborate with other groups including NASULGC, STEM Education Coalition, Tapping America's Potential, and the Business Coalition for Student Achievement.
- BHEF will provide leadership on P-16 systemic solutions involving key stakeholders to double the number of STEM graduates by 2015.