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**BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM CALLS FOR
“TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE” TO ADDRESS THE SHORTAGE OF
QUALITY MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS**

New Report Maps Action Plan for Teacher Recruitment, Retention, Renewal

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 11, 2007 – Deeply concerned that chronic low student interest and achievement in mathematics and science poses an acute challenge to American economic competitiveness, a coalition of prominent business and higher education leaders today launched an aggressive campaign to increase the quantity of teachers and the quality of teaching in mathematics and science.

At a press conference at The National Press Club, the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) released a major new report, *An American Imperative: Transforming the Recruitment, Retention, and Renewal of Our Nation’s Mathematics and Science Teaching Workforce*. The report provides a comprehensive action plan to elevate the status of the teaching profession and focuses on transforming three key components that contribute to a robust, world-class teaching workforce: recruitment, retention, and renewal.

“We know from research that the quality of P-12 mathematics and science teaching is the single most important factor in improving student performance,” said Carl F. Kohrt, President and CEO of Battelle, who served on the working group that helped shape the report. “If we are to improve achievement by all students in these disciplines, we must address the growing shortfall of teachers, particularly in those schools and communities with the greatest need.”

The report points to a projected national shortfall of more than 280,000 new mathematics and science teachers by 2015, and identifies bold strategies to encourage talented

individuals to become teachers, including differential pay for high-demand subject areas such as mathematics and science. *An American Imperative* calls for improved content and teaching methodology in teacher preparation programs; the report also advocates for new, research-based induction programs to support the retention of new and experienced teachers, and for policies and programs that proactively address the root causes of teacher dissatisfaction. In support of teacher renewal, *An American Imperative* outlines ideas for improved professional development programs, teacher licensure, and better data collection to help measure educational progress.

“In releasing *An American Imperative*, a critical mass of some of America’s most prominent business executives have joined forces with leaders in higher education in two vitally important ways,” said BHEF President Brian K. Fitzgerald. “First, we have spotlighted the significant, systemic problems that impact mathematics and science education today. More importantly, our report presents an ambitious, aggressive, proactive, and comprehensive strategy for fixing the problems.”

An American Imperative recognizes more than 100 distinct roles in the reform of mathematics and science education for five groups of stakeholders—the federal government, state governments, school districts, higher education, and business and foundations—and specifically urges business and higher education to jointly lead and drive the effort.

The report urges stakeholders to begin initiating change through four coordinated action steps, including the establishment of a national consortium to coordinate and advocate reform in mathematics and science education; the development of new and expanded policies to support teacher recruitment, retention, and renewal at both the state and federal levels; and the expansion of state and regional P-16 education councils to help coordinate the design and implementation of proposed reforms.

“A coordinated reform effort is required for our nation to attract and retain high quality mathematics and science teachers. We believe it is critical for the business community and higher education to become more actively engaged in efforts to improve mathematics and science teaching and look to leaders from these two groups to motivate, energize, and drive change,” said Warren J. Baker, President of California Polytechnic State University.

Baker co-chairs the BHEF initiative “Securing America’s Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)” working group, which provided key leadership and vision for *An American Imperative*. The initiative seeks to double the number of college students with degrees in STEM fields by 2015.

A full copy of the report can be downloaded at www.bhef.com.

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About the Business-Higher Education Forum

The Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) is an organization of Fortune 500 CEOs, college and university presidents, and foundation leaders working to advance innovative solutions to our nation's education challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness. The organization seeks to inform and influence public policy and inspire other corporate, academic and foundation leaders to act at the Federal, state and local levels. BHEF currently is pursuing two major initiatives: one focused on college/work readiness and success, and a second promoting America's leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For more information visit www.bhef.com.