



TAPPING AMERICA'S POTENTIAL

The Campaign to Increase U.S. STEM Graduates

January 26, 2012

President's Remarks on Need for a Skilled Workforce to Drive U.S. Economic Growth, Job Creation Echo TAP Coalition's STEM Policy Recommendations

The Tapping America's Potential (TAP) coalition, comprised of 15 prominent business organizations – representing America's most innovative companies – has outlined a series of [policy recommendations](#) aimed at increasing the number of U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) bachelor's-level graduates and driving American innovation, economic growth and job creation. During his State of the Union address on Tuesday, President Obama underscored the fundamental principles of the TAP coalition's recommendations.

TAP Coalition Policy Recommendations	President Obama's 2012 State of the Union Address Remarks
1. Build public support for making STEM improvement a national priority.	<i>"I also hear from many business leaders who want to hire in the United States but can't find workers with the right skills. Growing industries in science and technology have twice as many openings as we have workers who can do the job. Think about that -- openings at a time when millions of Americans are looking for work. It's inexcusable. And we know how to fix it."</i>
2. Motivate U.S. students and adults to study and enter STEM careers, with a special effort geared to those in currently underrepresented groups.	<i>"Join me in a national commitment to train two million Americans with skills that will lead directly to a job. ... [T]o prepare for the jobs of tomorrow, our commitment to skills and education has to start earlier."</i>
3. Upgrade K-12 STEM teaching to foster higher student achievement.	<i>"Teachers matter. So instead of bashing them, or defending the status quo, let's offer schools a deal. Give them the resources to keep good teachers on the job, and reward the best ones."</i>
4. Reform visa and immigration policies to enable the United States to attract and retain the best and brightest STEM students from around the world to study for advanced degrees and stay to work in America.	<i>"Let's also remember that hundreds of thousands of talented, hardworking students in this country face another challenge: the fact that they aren't yet American citizens. ... [They] study business and science and engineering, but as soon as they get their degree, we send them home to invent new products and create new jobs somewhere else. That doesn't make sense."</i>
5. Boost and sustain funding for basic research, especially in the physical sciences and engineering.	<i>"Innovation also demands basic research. ... Don't gut these investments in our budget. Don't let other countries win the race for the future. Support the same kind of research and innovation that led to the computer chip and the Internet; to new American jobs and new American industries."</i>

For the detailed TAP coalition policy recommendations, visit: www.tapcoalition.org/about/tap-policy-recommendations.php.

The Future Innovation Economy Won't Wait – TAP Into America's Potential Today!

In July 2005, 15 prominent business organizations — representing America's most innovative companies — recognized that U.S. economic and technological leadership, as well as future job creation and economic growth, depend on having a workforce grounded in the critical fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The organizations created the "Tapping America's Potential" (TAP) coalition with the goal of increasing the annual number of U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics bachelor's-level graduates to 400,000.

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