



For Immediate Release

March 23, 2015

**US2020 AND PARTNERS TACKLE STEM EDUCATION NEEDS
New Initiatives Announced at 2015 White House Science Fair**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Announced today at the White House Science Fair, US2020 and Co-Founding Sponsors [Chevron](#) and [Tata Consultancy Services \(TCS\)](#), will present the first ever STEM Mentoring Awards. The SMAs will recognize exceptional work in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) mentoring, surface and share best practices in the field, and build momentum for the STEM Mentoring Movement.

The three categories of awards announced include the “Most Innovative Hands-On Project” to be adjudicated by a panel of public and private sector leaders in STEM. The “Excellence in Volunteer Experience” and “Excellence in Corporate Culture” awards will reference qualitative and quantitative data gathered through US2020’s evaluation tools. Discovery Communications, US2020’s national media and communications partner, is providing in-kind services for select winning organizations and leveraging its media suite to raise awareness about the SMAs and the STEM Mentoring Movement.

The SMA ceremony will be held in Washington D.C. the week of July 20th in conjunction with the US2020 STEM Mentoring Symposium sponsored by SanDisk. The Symposium will bring together stakeholders from all sectors to learn about and celebrate quality STEM mentorship.

Blair Blackwell, Manager of Education and Corporate Programs for Chevron, regards their partnership with US2020 and co-sponsorship of the SMAs as a direct reflection of Chevron’s commitment to increasing student interest and engagement in STEM, and in particular project based learning. Blackwell says, “Today’s students are tomorrow’s employees and innovators. Students need to see how studying science and engineering translates into a career; they need strong role models and mentors to share their pathways to success.”

TCS views their investment in the SMAs as an extension of their commitment to STEM education and technology inclusion. TCS is a founding and technology partner and the pro bono developer of the US2020 matching platform. The platform provides cities, corporate and educational partners with a powerful tool to engage professionals in STEM education nation-wide. In the six months since the platform launched, US2020 has matched volunteers with more than 100 different volunteer organizations.

“Mentoring can transform the lives of girls, underrepresented minorities, and low-income children, providing them much needed exposure to the power of digital technologies, and inspiring them to pursue STEM-related career paths from an early age,” said TCS’ Surya Kant, President of North America, UK and Europe. “Our commitment to US2020 goes beyond engaging employee mentors, and is focused on building a national technology infrastructure and sustainable ecosystem for mentoring. Therefore we take great pride in being a founding sponsor of the US2020 STEM Mentoring Awards.”

In addition to the SMAs, US2020 and its partners – more than 250 organizations in 13 cities -- are collaborating and building the STEM Mentoring Movement through new and expanded initiatives. US2020 and founding partner, Cisco Systems, will implement the first-ever, STEM Mentoring Week -- a focused effort over the week of April 20, 2015 that will meaningfully connect more than 500 Cisco STEM professionals with more than 500 middle and high school students in Durham and Wake Counties. By July 2015, 20 percent of Cisco employees based in Research Triangle Park, NC will have engaged in high-quality, hands-on STEM programming primarily with underserved youth. These engagements are

intended to help students build awareness and excitement for STEM careers and serve as a “stepping stone” for Cisco employees to become involved in longer-term STEM mentoring commitments with other US2020 education partners.

Texas Instruments has become a US2020 Co-Investor joining leading STEM companies Chevron, Cisco, Cognizant, Discovery Communications, Raytheon, SanDisk and Tata Consultancy Services, all of whom continue to make substantial commitments to the STEM Mentoring movement.

The City Network, launched at the 2014 White House Science Fair, continues to grow and scale the STEM Mentoring Movement at the local level across the country. The network has engaged nearly 100 partner organizations, raised more than half a million dollars, and delivered almost 1,000 hours of STEM mentoring to youth underrepresented in the sciences. In addition, multiple network members have reported mentor-friendly policy shifts within coalition partner companies. The City Network will sustain its collaboration into the 2015-2016 school year and expand to formally include Baton Rouge, Boston, and Tulsa.

US2020 and national education partner Iridescent also announced their partnership on the Every Kid in the Park initiative at the 2015 White House Science Fair. The initiative is a \$5 million effort to provide world class STEM project-based learning and mentoring built around students’ visits to national parks.

While the initiatives are diverse, US2020 and its partners understand that [quality STEM mentorship is uniquely positioned](#) to address barriers to STEM education and careers for underrepresented students. The organization therefore sees the STEM Mentoring Awards and the Symposium as annual events that can raise the profile of STEM mentoring as a powerful tool for education reform.

Nick Hutchinson, Executive Director of US2020 says, “The opportunity for US2020 to recognize leaders in the STEM Mentoring Movement and create a platform for shared learning through best practices is what makes the SMAs so special. It is time to evaluate and measure success in the field if we truly want to develop a movement that is driven by quality.”

###

About US2020

US2020 launched at the 2013 White House Science Fair, with the mission to dramatically scale the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students, especially those who have been traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. US2020 has built a network of more than 250 organizations in 13 cities actively working together to develop a STEM Mentoring Movement. The initiative is building national supply and demand for STEM mentors by partnering with Fortune 500 companies and best-in-class nonprofits, and matching committed volunteers with quality programs. The match-making process and data collection is supported by a dynamic online platform built by pro-bono developer Tata Consultancy Services. US2020 is a division of Citizen Schools, a nonprofit organization in its 20th year of service. More information about the US2020 network and the 2015 SMAs can be found at <http://www.us2020.org.SMA>.

About Citizen Schools

Citizen Schools is a national nonprofit organization that partners with middle schools to expand the learning day for children in low-income communities. Citizen Schools mobilizes a team of AmeriCorps educators and volunteer “Citizen Teachers” to teach real-world learning projects and provide academic support, in order to help all students discover and achieve their dreams. For more information, please visit <http://www.citizenschools.org/>.

Media Contact: Michael Valentino
Communications and Foundations Engagement Specialist, US2020
914.400.3735
michaelvalentino@US2020.org