



For Immediate Release

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**US2020 AND ALCOA FOUNDATION PARTNER TO CONNECT STUDENTS WITH
PROFESSIONALS THROUGH STEM MENTORING PROGRAM
Creating a National Online Training Platform and Promoting STEM Mentoring in the Los
Angeles Area**

WASHINGTON D.C. - Today, US2020 and Alcoa Foundation launched a new partnership to support and grow the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Mentoring Movement. The two organizations will work together to create an online STEM mentor-training platform reaching 20,000 students and STEM professionals. Additionally, the US2020 mentoring program will expand to include the Greater Los Angeles area, increasing learning opportunities for 2,500 local students underrepresented in STEM.

Through the Alcoa Foundation partnership, US2020 will strengthen and expand its nonprofit partnerships to 10-12 national and regional youth-serving organizations in Los Angeles over the next 18 months. The goal is to engage new and existing corporate partners and actively recruit STEM professional volunteers to these high-quality mentorship programs. The Los Angeles region has seen a dramatic growth in demand for STEM professionals. The resulting high concentration of STEM professionals can work directly with youth and serve as career role models.

“Mentoring is a powerful and effective method to engage youth and educate them on the exciting opportunities that exist within STEM industries, especially advanced manufacturing,” explains Ryan Kish, Program Manager, Alcoa Foundation. “Helping students become aware of the numerous career pathways that their education can lead to is critical to ensure the next generation of makers, thinkers, and leaders.”

With support from Alcoa Foundation, US2020 will begin development of a universal online mentor-training platform. The program is designed to equip professionals to work with underrepresented youth of different ages and to better engage on the US2020 matching platform and find high-quality STEM volunteerism opportunities.

“US2020 is proud to partner with Alcoa Foundation and excited to create new opportunities for underserved students in the Greater Los Angeles region by supporting the scaling of high-quality STEM mentorship programs,” said Nick Hutchinson, Executive Director of US2020.

About US2020

US2020, a division of Citizen Schools, developed from a White House call to generate large-scale, innovative solutions to our STEM education challenges. Its mission is to dramatically scale the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students through hands-on projects with a focus on serving underrepresented communities -- girls, underrepresented minorities, and low-income children. US2020 is supported by national Co-Investors: Alcoa, CA Technologies, Chevron, Cisco, Cognizant, Discovery Communications, Raytheon, SanDisk, Tata Consultancy Services, and Texas Instruments, as well as the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Through partnerships at the national level and coalitions at the city level, US2020 has built a network of more than 250 organizations in 13 cities actively working to scale the STEM mentoring field, to align the field on common metrics, and to advance a focus on quality. To learn more, visit <http://www.us2020.org>.

About Alcoa Foundation

Alcoa Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the United States, with assets of approximately \$480 million. Founded 63 years ago, Alcoa Foundation has invested more than \$615 million. In 2014, Alcoa Foundation contributed more than \$22 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the world, building innovative partnerships to improve the environment and educate tomorrow's leaders for careers in manufacturing and engineering. The work of Alcoa Foundation is further enhanced by Alcoa's thousands of employee volunteers who share their talents and time to make a difference in the communities where Alcoa operates. Through the company's signature Month of Service program, in 2014, 58 percent of Alcoa employees took part in more than 1,000 events across 24 countries, benefiting more than 700,000 people and 500 nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.alcoafoundation.com.

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