



Igniting Moments of Discovery

For Immediate Release

Nov. 21, 2014

**PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCES FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS IN
EDUCATE TO INNOVATE CAMPAIGN
US2020 Fuels Campaign Momentum in Key Ways**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Yesterday during a White House ceremony, President Obama announced the newest winners of the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The ceremony also commemorated five years since the launch of the President's *Educate to Innovate*, an all-hands-on-deck campaign to help more girls and boys be inspired to excel in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. The Administration announced new updates that showcase the ongoing momentum of the campaign, including the progress of US2020, an organization that was launched at the 2013 White House Science Fair as a new component of the President's *Educate to Innovate* initiative.

The organization's mission is to dramatically scale the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students through hands-on projects, with a focus on serving underrepresented minorities. US2020's vision is a United States with one million STEM professionals annually mentoring students in meaningful ways by the year 2020.

Over the last year and a half, US2020 has developed the foundation of a quality-driven, STEM Mentoring Movement:

- US2020's 2014 City Competition, sponsored by Cisco, led to the creation of public/private coalitions in 52 cities across the nation and engaged over 600 companies and civic organizations in the work of scaling STEM mentorship. The US2020 City Competition has now transformed in the US2020 City Network, a collaborative community of city partners developing powerful movements at the local level, that includes: Allentown, PA; Baton Rouge, LA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Philadelphia, PA; Research Triangle Park, NC; San Francisco, CA; Tulsa, OK; Wichita, KS. The coalitions of these ten leading cities include more than 250 companies and organizations.
- US2020 was one of the first recipients, along with FIRST and Maker Ed, of a cohort of AmeriCorps VISTA members as part of the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) new STEM AmeriCorps program. CNCS committed 25 AmeriCorps VISTA members to US2020, an investment of more than \$550 thousand, and these capacity-builders are now deployed in 8 cities across the country and actively engaging more communities and volunteers in this important work.
- US2020 has formed national partnerships with some of the nation's leading STEM companies, all of whom have made substantial commitments to the build the STEM Mentoring Movement. These companies include: Chevron, Cisco, Cognizant, Discovery Communications, Raytheon, SanDisk, Tata Consultancy Services and Texas Instruments.

- In partnership with pro-bono developer Tata Consultancy Services, US2020 is creating a dynamic online platform that matches industry professionals with best-in-class mentoring programs. The platform also includes the use of five core badges that US2020 is implementing in an effort to badge the STEM mentoring field. Hundreds of volunteers have already been matched with quality programs through the US2020 platform and thousands more will be engaged in 2015.
- With funding from an Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Citizen Schools (US2020's parent organization) has launched a first-of-its-kind randomized, longitudinal study, evaluating whether STEM-focused apprenticeships lead to increased STEM interest and achievement in math and science for middle school students.
- Discovery Communications, US2020's communications partner, developed a Public Service Announcement that highlighted the importance of STEM mentoring and aired nationally across Discovery's portfolio of 13 U.S. networks this fall.

“US2020 is one example of the many public efforts and coalitions that can help to fundamentally change the STEM education landscape in ways that provide opportunities, excitement, engagement, inspiration, and training for more and more of our talented young people,” explains John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, and Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

US2020 is continuing to build the STEM Mentoring Movement and working to elevate STEM mentorship as a powerful tool in education reform that can help the nation close the opportunity gap. The organization relies on a committed and growing community of public, private, non-profit, and individual partners. In 2015, US2020 will be instituting widespread partner use of a set of basic measurement and evaluation tools. Aligning the field on common metrics and badges will help the movement better understand its impact on both volunteers and students and will lead to further quality and impact. Together with its partners, US2020 is proud to play its role in answering the White House's call for an all-hands-on-deck response to the nation's STEM challenges.

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