



For Immediate Release

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**US2020 AND 250+ PARTNERS ADDRESS THE STEM OPPORTUNITY CRISIS
STEM Mentoring Awards Announced at 2016 White House Science Fair**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Announced today at the White House, US2020 has launched the second annual STEM Mentoring Awards, together with co-founding sponsors Chevron and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). The initiative also announced a new online matching platform designed to enable any STEM professional to find high-quality, STEM volunteer opportunities across the country.

“Access to high quality mentoring can help prepare our youth for 21st century STEM careers, and remove barriers faced by girls and students from minorities and low-income groups. We deeply cherish our long standing partnership with US2020, and are proud to provide our technology and human capital to enable this national movement,” said Surya Kant, President, Tata Consultancy Services, North America, UK and Europe.

US2020 and its partners – more than 250 organizations in 14 cities -- are collaborating to build a quality-driven STEM mentoring movement focused on engaging underrepresented youth.

STEM Mentoring Awards & Symposium: US2020, together with Chevron and TCS, will present the second annual STEM Mentoring Awards and Symposium. The STEM Mentoring Awards are a platform to share best practices and to celebrate and encourage exceptional work in the STEM mentoring field. The 2015 winners were: University City Science Center FirstHand and Chicago Student Invention Convention for Most Innovative Hands-On Project; Iridescent and We Teach Science for Excellence in Volunteer Experience; and IBM and NetApp for Excellence in Corporate Culture.

In 2016, US2020 will recognize exceptional work in three categories: Excellence in Volunteer Experience, Excellence in Corporate Culture, and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships. The latter two categories are fully public and open to any U.S.-based firm. This year's winners will be recognized at the STEM Mentoring Symposium to be held at the White House complex this summer. The Symposium will serve as a national field-building event, attended by the country's leading practitioners and supporters of the STEM mentoring movement.

To learn more about the award categories, register for an informational webinar and apply visit www.US2020.org/sma.

US2020 Matching Platform: Today US2020 and TCS also announced a new online matching platform that functions like "Match.com for volunteers," enabling any nonprofit organization or classroom teacher to connect easily with a STEM professional, improving student learning while also increasing access to educational and career pathways in STEM. The development of the site has been led by TCS, a national corporate partner and pro-bono developer, and JMS, an award-winning creative studio. In 2016, US2020 will utilize the platform as a central hub to engage more than 1,000 corporations and civic organizations and serve more than 20,000 students with a focus on girls, traditionally underrepresented ethnic minorities, and children from low-income families. Nonprofits, schools and other education providers interested in leveraging this national tool should contact US2020 at <https://us2020.org/contact>.

US 2020

Ventura County STEM Network and the US2020 City Network: Today US2020 announced the addition of a new coalition partner to the US2020 City Network. Ventura County STEM Network (VC STEM), a STEM Ecosystem within the STEM Funders Network, will be partnering with US2020 to scale high-quality STEM mentorship within Ventura County, CA. US2020, through its partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), will place a STEM AmeriCorps VISTA within VC STEM to support the development of new systems to scale local STEM mentoring. This STEM AmeriCorps VISTA will be one of 25 VISTAs serving around country to help build the STEM mentoring movement.

VC STEM is an initiative started by the Ventura County P-20 Regional Council. California State University Channel Islands serves as the primary lead for VC STEM, with generous funding from the Amgen Foundation – the charitable arm of Amgen, a leading biotechnology company headquartered in Thousand Oaks. Amgen Foundation provided lead funding for VC STEM in 2014, and has continued support with a total investment to date of \$175,000.

Also within the City Network, today, CoderDojo Indiana (CDI) is announcing a new initiative to support the scalability of CoderDojo coding clubs throughout the state of Indiana. CDI is a regional partnership formed by CoderDojo Foundation and TechPoint Foundation for Youth (TPF4Y), a US2020 City Network partner. Initial funding for this program was provided through a partnership with Eleven Fifty Academy. CDI will help make Indiana the state with the largest number of Dojos anywhere in the U.S. by 2017.

The US2020 City Network launched at the 2014 White House Science Fair and continues to grow and scale the STEM mentoring movement at the local level across the country. In addition to Ventura County and Indianapolis, the network currently includes: Allentown, PA; Baton Rouge, LA; Boston, MA; Philadelphia, PA; Research Triangle Park, NC; San Francisco, CA; Tulsa, OK; Wichita, KS. These coalitions have engaged over 100 partner organizations, raised more than \$850,000 for STEM mentoring activities, and delivered STEM opportunities to over 10,000 underrepresented students in the last year.

At the national level, US2020's work is made possible by the leaders in building the STEM mentoring movement, including Alcoa Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, CA Technologies, Chevron, Cisco, Cognizant, Discovery Communications, Raytheon, SanDisk, Tata Consultancy Services and Texas Instruments.

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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 14 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 2016 Awards can be found at <http://www.us2020.org/SMA>. Follow US2020 on Twitter @US_2020.

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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/>.