

- SAMPLE LETTER -
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

{Date}

Dear {*Organization Name*} Member:

The {*Organization Name*} has long recognized the import role a strong education system has in building a ready workforce for our member companies. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education is a critical component to preparing students for success in the workplace. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, computer, mathematical, engineering and scientific occupations are among the highest paying and fastest growing in the country. However, too many Arizona students are not graduating with the skills they need for post-secondary education or careers in fast-growing STEM-related occupations. Fewer still are aware of the outstanding job opportunities that exist for graduates in STEM fields.

The Arizona STEM Network, led by Science Foundation Arizona, is a collaboration of businesses, educators, government and philanthropy with a common agenda to graduate more Arizona students prepared for the global economy through STEM education. Creating meaningful business engagement opportunities in education is one of the STEM Network's primary goals. Businesses and industry organizations can make a real difference by working with teachers, schools and districts to advance real-world learning opportunities and career exploration for students. The STEM Business Advocates program, coordinated by the Arizona STEM Network, makes it easy for business volunteers to get involved. Through this program, business volunteers are matched with proven educational programs in their local schools. The Arizona STEM Network uses a robust evaluation process to ensure that business engagement is making a real and sustainable difference in student achievement.

The STEM Business Advocates program provides direct value to building a strong and well-prepared workforce. Students better understand the applications of math and science, learn valuable workplace skills and gain insight into new career opportunities. Teachers advance their knowledge of STEM content and its career applications. Businesses contribute directly to advancing the workforce in Arizona by helping to build a talent pipeline.

Business volunteers will also have access to a web-based partner portal to share their experiences and learn from others. The Arizona STEM Network provides an

opportunities for recognition of STEM Advocates through the Science Foundation Arizona website, social media, showcasing at conferences and sharing successes with all Network partners.

As a valued *{Organization Name}* member, we invite you to participate in the STEM Business Advocates program. In this way, you can be a part of the solution to growing our economy and filling our workforce needs.

Regards,



Suzanne Kinney
Director of the Arizona STEM Network
Science Foundation Arizona
(602) 451-9326
skinney@sfaz.org

Name of Partner
Title
Industry Association
Phone
Email

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