

PRESS RELEASE - 6/22/2007

## OHIO MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ADVOCACY LEADERS TAKE NEW APPROACH TO EDUCATION REFORM

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**Cleveland, OH** - The Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition, in cooperation with the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC), today announced the launch of a nationwide initiative to provide second-stage support to existing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education programs and partnerships that have been proven to impact the quality of education and growth of the workforce pipeline from grades PreK-16 and beyond. The Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition will assume the lead in coordinating NASSMC program activities within Ohio.

The NASSMC STEM Accelerator Initiative (SAI) has been developed to fill a critical void in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education landscape. Many students are discovering that they lack the necessary mathematics, science, and technology background for the jobs they want. Recently published dropout rates are alarmingly high. The STEM Accelerator Initiative will work across the education spectrum, focusing on existing programs at every level that have demonstrated success in improving science, technology and mathematics achievement and increasing the numbers of students going on to more advanced study. The Accelerator Initiative's interests include:

- Instilling basic knowledge in the early grades
- Strengthening essential skills in the middle grades
- Increasing the pool of capable workers at the high school level
- Enlarging the pool of undergraduates entering the STEM disciplines in postsecondary education
- Supporting informal programs across the continuum

Smart businesses determine which investments will have the greatest impact on the health and performance of the company and they invest accordingly. The Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition and NASSMC's national network of 42 state business/education/policy coalitions will apply that same principle to enhance the STEM education and workforce pipeline. SAI will offer a range of services: financial support, partnership development, community relations assistance, and operational expertise as needed. This support is tailored to the needs of the program and is specifically intended to help successful programs become sustainable or to help sustaining programs scale and be replicated by other partners. The Accelerator Initiative will make significant and varied investments in helping proven educational programs move towards the next stage of success. SAI does not look at programs that *should* work; it looks for programs that are working and provide evidence of success that can be expanded to other partners and programs. Identification, nomination, and selection of programs to receive support will follow common set of criteria and protocols and will be coordinated at the national level by NASSMC.

Watch OMSC's website at <http://www.OhioMSC.org> for more information and register to receive updates on the STEM Accelerator Initiative by emailing [accelerator@nassmc.org](mailto:accelerator@nassmc.org).