

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics New York State STEM Collaborative

320 Sunset Hill Rd. East
Fishkill, NY 12524

February 27, 2009

Chancellor Robert M. Bennett
N.Y.S. Board of Regents
201 Millwood Lane
Tonawanda, New York 14150

Dear Chancellor Bennett:

It is evident that a myriad of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives, are now in various stages of development, throughout the United States. Subsequently, New York State's three professional organizations, the N.Y.S. Technology Education Association (NYSTEA); Association of Math Teachers in N.Y.S. (AMTNYS); and the Science Teachers Association of N. Y. S. (STANYS) have recently formed the NYS STEM Collaborative (January 24, 2009) and are working collectively and collaboratively to address a multitude of related approaches, concerns and issues in order to strengthen our State's MST Standards. Our STEM Collaborative is also involving the American Association of Engineering Education (ASEE) and the New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) for their guidance, expertise and support.

Much confusion exists, with STEM Education, throughout all political and pedagogical arenas. The roles of Science and Mathematics (S & M) are more clearly understood, because of their long standing history. Technology Education, as an instructional content discipline, is quite new by comparison and delivers MST Standard 5 including technological systems, processes and engineering design. Education technology (ET) and information technology (IT) are even newer to the classroom as instruction aids. IT and ET provide devices, software, methods and skills that support and facilitate teaching and learning and span across all areas and levels of instruction, not just STEM. The International Technology Education Association [www.iteaconnect.org] has defined the "T and E" of STEM in their proclamation dated January 17, 2009.

It is essential that we define and delineate STEM Education for New York State. For your information and inquiry, the NYS STEM Collaborative's "Mission Statement" is attached with this letter. Our next meeting is scheduled to be held at the Fort William Henry Conference Center, in Lake George, N.Y., on Friday April 24, 2009. Members of the Board of Regents are cordially invited to attend this meeting and provide critical input as part of our ongoing dialog.

On behalf of the MST professional associations, I will be glad to provide you with any information related to the NYS STEM Collaborative and any desired details surrounding our upcoming meeting. You can contact me at [JStark@pjschools.org] or call 845-242-5799. We encourage you to visit our STEM Collaborative websites at [www.amtnys.org] [www.nystea.com] and [www.stanys.org].

Sincerely,

Jan Stark
President, NYSTEA

Mickey Jo Sobierajski
President, AMTNYS

Barbara Poseluzny
President, STANYS