

## **Thank You For Supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math Education**

Dear Chairman Gordon and Congressional Co-Sponsors,

Thank you for recognizing the importance of math and science education to a knowledge-based economy and ongoing American competitiveness by designating March 14, 2009, as “Pi Day” and encouraging its acknowledgment and celebration around the world.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education are critical components of a solid foundation of knowledge. Children who perform well in math and the sciences have higher graduation and college attendance rates, and employment in these fields will increase approximately 70 percent faster than the rate of other occupations.

American kids are competitive in math and science in elementary school, but by middle school are outperformed consistently by students in other countries. This is especially true for female students, who are outpaced by their male counterparts, and for students in minority and impoverished school districts.

We must provide all of our students with a world-class STEM education, find a way to reinforce the marvel and excitement of math and science, and teach students about how excelling at math and science relates to a variety of hobbies and careers, including music, fashion, and sports.

Designating March 14, 2009 as Pi Day and encouraging schools and educators to focus on activities that teach students about Pi, engage them in the study of mathematics, and provide relatable examples of how math and science education is a significant factor in future success is a great way to start improving U.S. test scores in these fields and build a more competitive tomorrow.

Thank you for your support of Pi Day and STEM education.

Sincerely,

**Association for Competitive Technology**

**Adventure Science Center, Nashville TN**

**American Chemical Society**

**Association of Clinical Research Organizations**

**Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)**

**eBay**

**IEEE-USA**

**National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)**

**National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)**

**TechAmerica (formed by the merger of AeA and ITAA)**

**TechNet**

**VeriSign**

**Dana Colarulli, Counsel, IPO**

**Dan Hellerich, [www.piday.org](http://www.piday.org)**

**Danica McKellar, Author of “Math Doesn’t Suck”**

**James S. Miller, PhD, Technology Policy and Strategy, Microsoft**

**LeRoy Wenstrom, Ph.D. American Mathematics Competition Committee Chair**

**Lewis Ziska, PhD, USDA, Crop Systems and Global Change**