



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 9, 2016

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**National STEM Leadership Conference Shines Light on Need to Fill STEM Pipeline**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Nearly 900 of the country’s leaders in education, industry and policy gathered for the fifth annual U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, May 18-20, 2016.

Each year, the national U.S. News STEM Solutions Conference unites the brightest minds in industry, education and government—business leaders, scientists, technology experts, non-profit organizers, policymakers and educators—to help establish a self-sustaining STEM workforce for the future. This year, the content focused on growing America’s diverse talent pool to fill over 4 million unfilled jobs requiring skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

“We have created a national STEM community,” said Brian Kelly, Editor and Chief Content Officer of U.S. News & World Report. “People come to this conference to exchange ideas, best practices and scalable solutions. It’s inspiring, and I can’t wait to see what’s in store next year in San Diego.”

Conference highlights included keynote addresses from Marc H. Morial, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League; Michael M. Crow, Ph.D., President of Arizona State University; Freeman Hrabowski III, Ph.D., President of University of Maryland, Baltimore County; David Coleman, President and Chief Executive Officer of The College Board; and Jo Handelsman, Ph.D., Associate Director for Science – White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, among others.

This year, U.S. News & World Report honored five distinguished leaders in education, industry and philanthropy as part of the U.S. News STEM Leadership Hall of Fame. The formidable class of 2016 comprise Anna Maria Chávez, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA; Norman C. Francis, Ph.D., President Emeritus of Xavier University of Louisiana; Ellen Kullman, Retired Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of DuPont; Edward B. Rust, Jr., Chairman of the Board of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company; and John J. Tracy, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer of The Boeing Company.

In his remarks on the state of STEM in the United States, Kelly unveiled the third annual [U.S. News/Raytheon STEM Index](#), a comprehensive measurement of economic and education-related STEM activity since the year 2000. This year's Index recorded a slight rise in hiring, education and general interest in technology and engineering over last year. Math education and general interest in science declined.

During an exhibit hall break, U.S. News partnered with [First Book](#)—a non-profit social enterprise that distributes books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families—to host a community backpack build. STEM Solutions participants stuffed 1,000 new backpacks with 3,000 new STEM books and then donated them to Baltimore City Public Schools. U.S. News also donated an additional 5,000 free books to teachers in the community, bringing the total to 8,000 new books. STEM Solutions sponsor [Leidos](#) also announced a generous contribution to this community initiative.

In addition, the STEM Funders Network [announced the inclusion of 10 new communities](#) to the nationwide [STEM Ecosystems Initiative](#). The coalition aims to build cross-collaborative learning platforms in 100 cities by 2020.

The U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference returns to San Diego—a city at the forefront of many STEM industries—May 24-26, 2017. To learn more about how you can help shape our nation's future by participating in STEM Solutions, visit [USNewsSTEMsolutions.com](#) and connect on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Google+](#).

#### **About U.S. News STEM Solutions**

The U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference is focused on improving America's science, technology, engineering and math skills. Produced by U.S. News & World Report, the conference highlights STEM issues on a national stage and assembles major corporations, leading educators and top policymakers to find solutions to the STEM crisis. Now in its sixth year, the conference will take place May 24-26, 2017 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. For more information and to register visit [www.usnewsstemsolutions.com](#).

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