

GOVERNOR PATRICK SWEARS IN CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY FOR SECOND TERM AS HONORARY CO-CHAIR OF STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Congressman Kennedy Will Continue to Enhance the Commonwealth's Economic and Educational future in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Fields

BOSTON – Thursday, December 18, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick today swore in Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III for a second term as the Honorary Co-Chair of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Advisory Council. Together with the Council's Co-Chair Dr. Jeffrey Leiden, Chairman, President and CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, this leadership model will continue to enhance STEM related efforts in the Commonwealth.

"Moving forward on the Commonwealth's comprehensive STEM agenda requires leadership and a collaborative spirit," said Governor Patrick. "Congressman Kennedy, an engineer by training and a passionate advocate for STEM, manufacturing and middle skills knows the importance of investing in these areas, and I'm confident that the initiative will continue to find success with him in a leadership role."

Congressman Kennedy serves the Fourth District of Massachusetts in Congress and was recently appointed to the influential House Committee on Energy & Commerce. An engineer by training, he is a member of the Congressional STEM Caucus.

"Thanks to the leadership of the Patrick Administration, Massachusetts has become the gold standard on STEM education and workforce development," said Congressman Kennedy. "The attention paid and investments made in STEM across our Commonwealth continue to power not just economic growth but economic opportunity. I look forward to working with Dr. Leiden, the entire STEM Council and the new administration to engage, improve and expand our efforts in every corner of the state."

As a result of the STEM Advisory Council's work over the last five years, the Patrick Administration has helped to form partnerships with key stakeholders in academia and industry that have led to funding support for STEM education. Recognizing the Commonwealth's position as a national leader in STEM fields, the Administration has developed a number of strategies to encourage students to pursue careers in these areas. These include: the establishment of six STEM early college high schools, expanding and strengthening Regional STEM Networks, bolstering STEM Advanced Placement (AP) participation, training a specialized cadre of 250 STEM teachers, providing more technical assistance to districts wanting to improve STEM programs, the creation of the STEM Teacher Corps and Governor Patrick's announcement of \$750,000 at the annual STEM Summit last month, which will support the next phase of the @Scale Initiative to promote and advance student interest, engagement and educator effectiveness in STEM.

"I am honored to co-chair the Governor's STEM Advisory Council with Congressman Kennedy," said Dr. Leiden. "His dedication and passion have helped to establish momentum and make great progress to strengthen STEM education across Massachusetts. His leadership will continue to be an invaluable asset for the Council."

In 2009, Governor Patrick signed Executive Order No. 513, creating the Governor's STEM Advisory Council and named former Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray as the chair.

Former Lieutenant Governor Murray led the Council's efforts until May of 2013. Massachusetts has been recognized by the National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practices, Change the Equation and Innovate+Educate as a top STEM state and was also rated number one by the U.S. Department of Education on the nationwide Race to the Top Competition.

Members of the STEM Advisory Council include the secretaries of Education, Housing and Economic Development and Labor and Workforce Development, the commissioners of Higher Education, Elementary and Secondary Education and Early Education and Care, the president of the University of Massachusetts, and the following members appointed by the Governor:

- Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III, Honorary Co-Chair
 - Dr. Jeffrey Leiden, Co-Chair Chairman, President and CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals
 - Alicia Barton, CEO and Executive Director, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
 - James Brosnan, Superintendent, Northern Berkshire Regional School District
 - Jondavid Chesloff, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
 - Joseph Dorant, President, Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists
 - Pamela Goldberg, CEO, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
 - John Hodgman, Professor, Entrepreneurial Leadership Studies, Tufts Gordon Institute
 - Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
 - Joyce Kressler, Director, Worcester Incubator for Innovation, Ecotarium
 - Dr. Laurie Leshin, President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 - AnnMarie Levins, General Manager, Microsoft
 - Michael Looney, Curricular Chair and Technology Department School to Career Coordinator, Mashpee Public Schools
 - Patricia Meservey, President, Salem State University
 - Timothy P. Murray, President and CEO, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
 - Joyce Plotkin, Founder and CEO, The DIGITS Project
 - Marcy Reed, President, National Grid Massachusetts
 - Dr. Ira Rubenzahl, President, Springfield Technical Community College
 - Kenneth Salim, Superintendent, Weymouth Public Schools
 - Douglas Scott, Teacher, Natick High School; Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year
 - Ellen Spear, President and CEO, Heritage Museum in Sandwich
 - Yvonne Spicer, Vice President of Advocacy and Educational Partnerships, Museum of Science
 - Michael Tamasi, CEO, AccuRounds
 - Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, President and CEO, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
- Members of the State Legislature include:
- Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Education
 - Senator Daniel Wolf, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
 - Representative Alice Peisch, House Chair, Joint Committee on Education
 - Representative Thomas Conroy, House Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
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To learn more about the Patrick Administration's STEM Initiatives and the STEM Advisory Council, visit <http://www.mass.edu/stem/>