



President-Elect Obama's STEM Agenda

The President-elect has reiterated his support for TBED-related (Tech Based Economic Development) initiatives and plans to increase funding for research and innovation. His *Plan for Science and Innovation*, released in September, makes a wide range of TBED commitments, touching on clean energy investment, STEM education, entrepreneurship and basic research... estimated at \$85.6 billion annually. The president-elect pledged during the campaign to double the current level of funding for basic research over the next ten years at federal science agencies and to fully fund the America Competes Act, signed by President George Bush, at \$5.9 billion annually.

... the Obama plan would make the research and development tax credit permanent, double funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, create an Advanced Manufacturing Fund to increase collaboration between university researchers and industry and invest in a nationwide network of public-private incubators. The plan would also increase research spending on defense and homeland security, including DARPA and Homeland Security ARPA.

The plan also called for: restoring the role of White House science advisor to a senior-level position, the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology would report directly to the President and would serve as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); and, strengthening the role of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), which would offer private sector and academic insight into federal innovation policy.

Also included in the plan was a new \$500 million Technology Investment Fund that would build on existing federal education technology programs by offering matching grants to ensure that technology is integrated in public schools. The funds would be used to introduce new high-tech learning tools, build a new technology-based curriculum and help connect teachers through social networks to increase collaboration. In order to improve the quality and number of science and technology educators, the plan called for 40,000 Teaching Service scholarships of up to \$25,000 each to increase the number of teachers in high-need subjects and underserved regions. Federal STEM education policy would be coordinated by a new STEM Education Committee in OSTP. This committee would also be charged with devising a new method of tracking student achievement in STEM subjects.

At the university-level, the plan calls for tripling the number of NSF Graduate Research Fellowships from 1,000 to 3,000 and creating a new Opportunity Tax Credit for college students. A Community College Partnership Program would help enhance STEM education at two-year schools to encourage community college students to transition into STEM programs at four-year universities.

Find out more about President-elect Obama's *Plan for Science and Innovation* at:
<http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/FactSheetScience.pdf>

ITIF has published a breakdown of the costs of Obama's innovation plan at:
<http://www.itif.org/index.php?id=176>