



Media Advisory

Contact: Maureen Palmer
703-448-9062 ext. 222

Gillian Goldmark
703-448-9062 ext. 230

Center for Excellence in Education Hosts Discussion About The Importance of Engineering in the United States

McLean, VA - The Center for Excellence in Education's Annual Congressional Luncheon, sponsored by SAIC, will feature an illustrious panel to discuss the importance of advancing engineering to assure U.S. leadership in science and technology. It is vital that the United States remain competitive in the 21st century. To do so, the top achieving young scholars must be encouraged to pursue careers in engineering.

What: Illustrious panel discussion: The importance of advancing engineering in the United States to assure innovation and competitiveness. The panel will include:

- Lieutenant General James A. Abrahamson USAF (Ret.), former Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is currently Chairman & CEO of several corporations, and Chairman of the Exploration Committee of the NASA Advisory Council
- Mr. Wes Bush, President and COO of Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Dr. Leah H. Jamieson, John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering and Ransburg Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University

Who: Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)

These CEE honorary board members plan to attend and join the discussion about the relationship of educating top achieving students in competitiveness and innovation.

- **Sen. Joseph Lieberman, ID-CT**
- **Sen. John Warner, R-VA**
- **Rep. Tom Davis, R-VA**
- **Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-CA**

When: Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

Where: Russell Senate Office Building
Russell Senate Caucus Room
Washington, D.C.

How: Please email ggoldmark@cee.org to register for this event.

“The lack of U.S. students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering is alarming,” said Joann DiGennaro, President of CEE. “We must promote the importance of maintaining an excellent engineering workforce for this nation’s leadership position in the global community.”

The annual luncheon benefits CEE’s programs, the Research Science Institute (RSI) and the United States Biology Olympiad. RSI is a six week summer enrichment program, offered in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), that emphasizes advanced theory and research in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The USABO focuses on stimulating young scholars’ intellectual curiosity and developing their critical thinking skills in biological reasoning, bioinformatics, and areas of importance to this nation’s security.

Comments from CEE’s Honorary Board Members:

Senator John Warner of Virginia said, “I commend the center for its work with educational institutions, corporations, foundations, and government agencies to help America keep its edge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in an increasingly competitive global economy.”

“The Center for Excellence in Education has long been a leader in promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, education. The CEE has rightly recognized the importance of developing STEM talent to preserve our competitiveness and economic viability in a global economy. I have been honored to serve as an Honorary Board Member of the Center,” said Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut.

Congressman Tom Davis of Virginia’s 11th District said, “The world’s best and brightest come to American universities to obtain degrees in math, engineering and science and they bring that education back to their homes. American universities continue to drive innovation across the globe. If we want to benefit from the cutting-edge research, thinking and teaching we do in this country, we must give our K-12 students the tools to take advantage of it. The Center for Excellence in Education is a leader in providing these tools and I am proud to serve as an honorary board member. ”

###

The Center for Excellence in Education was founded in 1983 by the late Admiral H.G. Rickover and Joann P. DiGennaro, President of the Center. The Center's mission is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science and

technology, and to encourage collaboration among leaders in the global community. CEE sponsors the Research Science Institute (RSI) and the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO). For more information about the Center and its programs, visit CEE's Web site, www.cee.org.