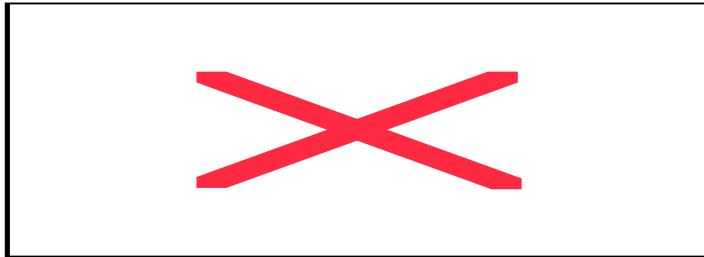


# Building a STEM Agenda Through Governors

April 13, 2007

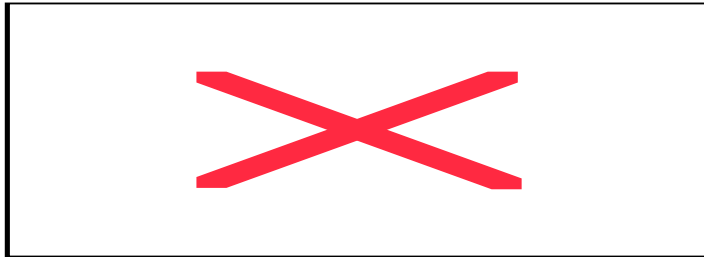
2007 NASSMC Annual Coalition  
Directors Meeting

Charlie Toulmin & Meghan Groome,  
NGA Center for Best Practices



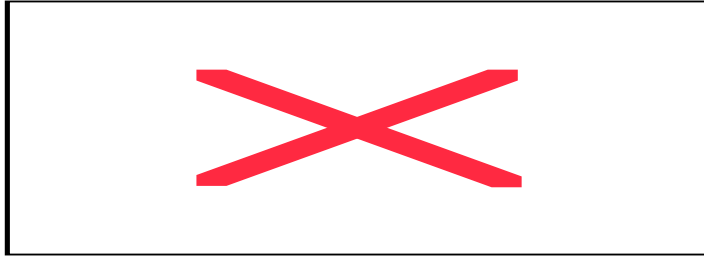
## About the NGA

- The lobbying side develops consensus policy positions among governors to bring to the federal government – (e.g. Innovation America package and our recent NCLB recommendations)
- NGA Center for Best Practices is a dedicated consulting firm for governors and their key policy staff
- Mission of the NGA Center: To develop and implement innovative solutions to policy challenges for governors and their key policy staff



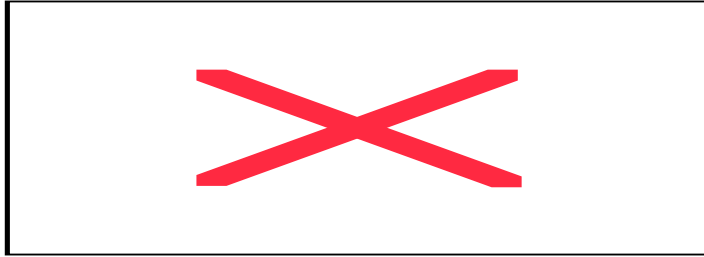
## What is Innovation America?

- Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano's initiative as 2006-2007 Chair of the National Governors Association
- The initiative is designed to raise national awareness of the critical role of states in embracing innovation as the pathway to U.S. competitiveness
- December 2006 kick-off event, NGA Winter and Annual Meetings, Publications, a STEM Learning Lab, and Challenge Grants



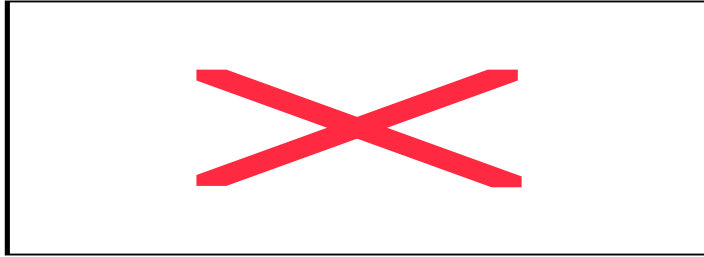
## Governors Play a Key Role

- States are the major funder of human capital (K-16 education), physical infrastructure (broadband) and recently, nanotechnology and STEM cell R&D
- Governors can bring together the education, business, and political leadership of a state to enhance innovative capacity
- Governors are working on other initiatives that this initiative can build on (high school reform)



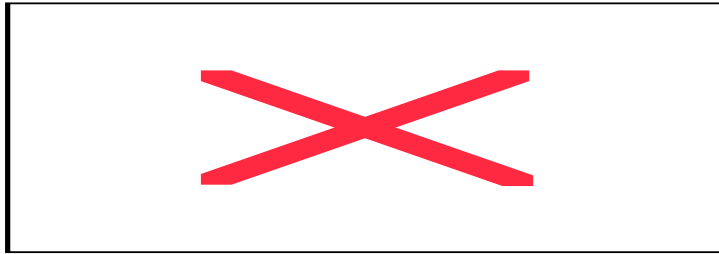
## Innovation America Strategies

- Encouraging Business Innovation Through Supportive State Strategies
- Improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education
- Creating a new state (governor, legislature, public) compact with postsecondary education systems to better support economic growth



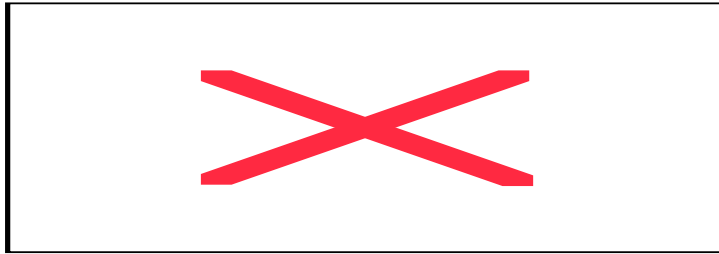
## Building a STEM Education Agenda through the Governor

- Increase the supply of high school graduates interested in/prepared for STEM related careers
- Help provide all HS graduates the higher level critical thinking, adaptive, and problem-solving skills they need for success in postsecondary education and the workplace
- Increase the STEM literacy of the citizenry



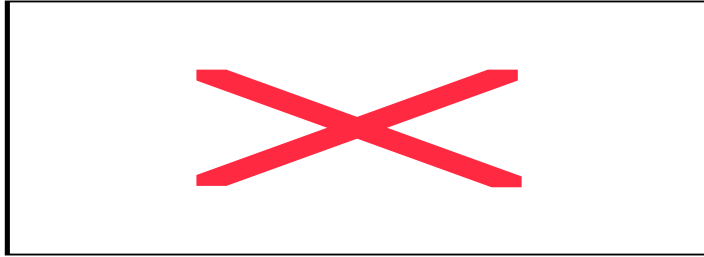
## K-12 STEM Education: Activities

- Building a K-12 STEM Education Agenda (issued at NGA Winter Meeting in Feb 2007)
- RFP for State STEM Center Grant Program (issued at NGA Winter Meeting)
- Plenary sessions on K-12 STEM Education at the NGA Winter Meeting
- NGA Proposal to Congress: Incentives to States for Voluntary International Benchmarking, P-16 data system grants, and P-16 council grants



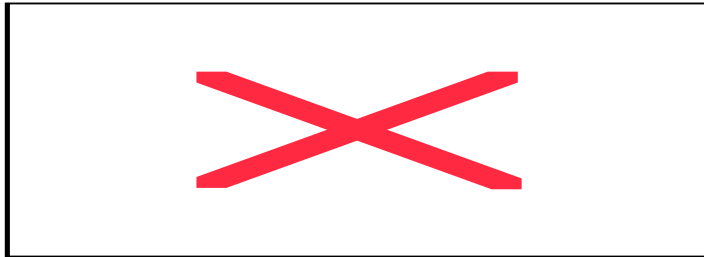
## STEM Center Grant: Purposes

- Due to NGA by May 15, 2007
- \$500,000 grant over two years to up to six states to support a STEM Center or Network (25-30 states with interest)
- Support STEM education redesign and agenda that supports a state economy's innovative capacity
- Required application team includes cross-sector representation (governor, legislature, K-16, higher education, economic development, private sector)



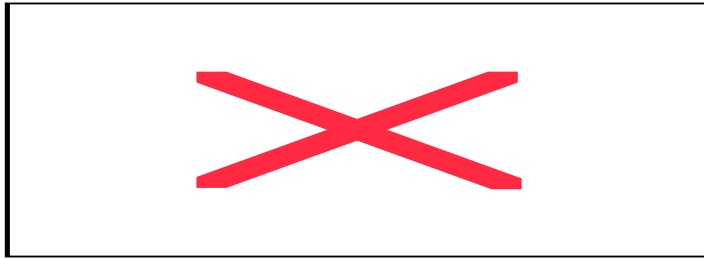
## STEM Center Grant: Objectives

- Align K-12 STEM with Postsecondary and Workforce Expectations
- Improve quality of STEM Teaching Force
- Scale successful STEM models
- Benchmark state STEM standards/assessments to top performing nations on TIMSS and/or PISA



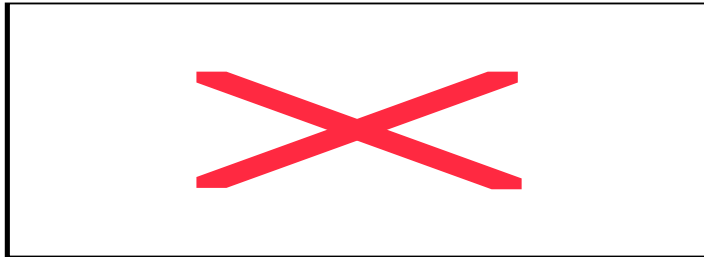
## International Benchmarking Proposal

- Nations, and some U.S. states and districts, have used participation in TIMSS to improve their K-12 STEM system through evaluation, sharing of best practices, and capacity building
- Top performing nations on TIMSS and PISA are also competing well in the global economy (Finland)
- NGA requests \$ from Congress as voluntary incentive to for state participation in TIMSS and/or PISA



## Next Steps in the Work

- NGA is holding a May 2007 forum on elements of a new state compact with its public postsecondary education, and developing a related publication
- STEM grants awarded in late June 2007 and NGA Annual Meeting in July 2007
- A Learning Lab on Building a STEM Agenda is scheduled in Alabama in September 2007



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