



Emerging STEM-Connected Postsecondary and Workforce Priorities for States and Territories

Portia Pratt, National Governors Association
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The National Governors Association

Founding

The May 1908 meeting of President Theodore Roosevelt and governors led to the creation of the National Governors Association.



Image: The first meeting of the National Governors Association in 1908.

What We Do

The National Governors Association (NGA) is the bipartisan organization of the nation's governors. Through NGA, governors identify priority issues and deal with matters of public policy and governance at the state, national and global levels.

The NGA Center for Best Practices is the only research and consulting group that directly serves governors and helps governors and executive branch leaders develop and implement innovative solutions to public policy challenges. Our Government Relations team ensures that states are a strong voice in Washington, D.C. We also provide management consultative services to both new and incumbent governors, their senior executive staff and trusted advisors.

NGA Center for Best Practices Policy Programs



Homeland
Security



Cybersecurity



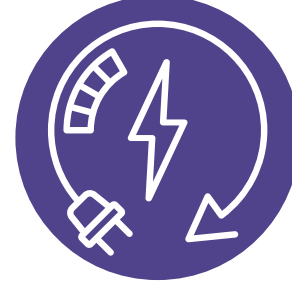
Behavioral
Health



K-12 Education



Healthcare
Delivery



Energy



Public Health



Land Management,
Agriculture,
Housing



Workforce
Development,
Higher
Education, And
Economic Policy



Infrastructure



Public Safety
And Legal
Counsel



Children And
Families



NATIONAL
GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION



STEM, Postsecondary and Workforce



THE SHIFT FOR GOVERNORS

**Stem
conversation
focused on
increasing
degree
production**

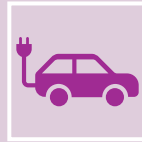


**Stem is less an
education issue
and more of
connectedness
and
competitiveness
issue.**

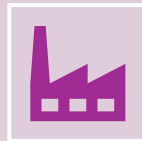
STEM Workforce Demand is Driven By...



AI



Energy



Advanced Manufacturing



Cybersecurity

The Real Challenge is Not Demand – It's Talent System Capacity

Speed: Can institutions adapt as quickly as industry?

Data

Which STEM programs lead to good jobs?

Which programs lead to good STEM jobs?

Which credentials have value?

Where are shortages emerging?

Scale: How to grow from a successful pilot to a statewide system.

What We're Seeing Across States and Territories

Trend 1: Governors are organizing around sectors not STEM generally

- AI, Energy, Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Defense

Trend 2: The conversation is moving beyond degree attainment and is increasingly focused on non-degree credentials and earn-and-learn models

- Degree apprenticeships, short-term credentials, skills-based hiring, and Workforce Pell

Trend 3: Postsecondary and workforce policy are converging.

For Consideration

Questions I believe Governors are increasingly asking:

- **How do we prepare people for technologies that are evolving faster than educational institutions?**
- **How do we measure the value of STEM pathways beyond degree completion?**
- **How do we build talent systems that reach rural communities and underserved populations?**
- **What evidence should guide state investment decisions?**
- **What role should states play versus institutions versus employers?**

Questions?



THANK YOU!



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