

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 29, 2008

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Online Searchable Database Bridges the Gap in STEM education

User-friendly site helps educators, students, transitioning workers and more find programs for their needs

Visit: <http://www.csewi.org/STEM>

Pasadena, Calif. – In an effort to enhance critical science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workforce development and career technical education (CTE), an on-line database of STEM programs was released today by the California Space Education and Workforce Institute (CSEWI). Called the “STEM Inventory” the website is a user-friendly, searchable database of STEM programs available to Californians at all stages of their careers.

“We envision the STEM Inventory as a critical tool to help address current and projected STEM workforce shortages,” said Dr. Gregg, executive director of CSEWI. “By providing Californians with a central place to find a STEM program that fits their needs, we potentially influence and guide the people who will become our next scientists, engineers, and STEM teachers,” he added.

The STEM Inventory is a resource that educators, parents, transitioning workers, STEM program managers, and more can utilize by searching for programs by grade level, region, topic, funding and other categories. For example, a user could search for “physics”, “high school” and/or “northern California” to find programs that meet those criteria.

In addition to being a resource for Californians to find STEM programs it is also a tool for groups with STEM programs. “A lot of organizations are running the same type of STEM programs, and *no one* is talking to one another,” said Daphne Dador, a developer of the STEM Inventory. “With this Inventory, one of our hopes is to decrease the redundancy in STEM programs and provide a means for partnership and collaboration between like programs,” she added.

Currently the STEM Inventory boasts over one hundred programs and is constantly open to submissions from STEM program organizers who can submit their programs via the website’s user-friendly survey. “We strongly encourage STEM and CTE organizers to populate the Inventory with their programs. By doing so it helps all of us who are concerned with the STEM workforce issue to get a better understanding of what’s available,” said Dador. “We can’t begin to really address this issue if we don’t know who’s doing what,” she added.

In addition to featuring a comprehensive search engine, the STEM Inventory also boasts the latest in Web 2.0 technology including a user-review and rating system, a “featured programs” module, and news and links on the latest in STEM education in California. Visit: <http://www.csewi.org/STEM>.

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The California Space Education & Workforce Institute (CSEWI) is a 501(c)(3) organization that works closely with its parent organization, the California Space Authority (CSA). CSEWI’s mission is to inspire parents, educators, and students to engage in California-based space-related education and to attract, integrate and retain a robust California space workforce.