



# U.S. Conference of Mayors Recognizes Science Centers

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Conference of Mayors, in its 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, adopted a resolution calling on Congress and the President to fully fund federal informal science education programs. The resolution also recognizes the unique and essential role that American science centers play in providing math and science education for students of all ages. The resolution acknowledges the vital learning that goes on in science centers throughout the country.

The resolution was originally sponsored by Jean Quan, the mayor of Oakland, California, and former chair of the governing body of the Chabot Space and Science Center, located in that city. According to Alexander Zwissler, the Executive Director of Chabot, "Chabot has been an integral part of the educational establishment of the entire San Francisco Bay Area for over 125 years. Many other science centers serve a similar role in their cities. It is entirely appropriate for the U.S. Conference of Mayors to formally acknowledge the role of science centers to educate students in the subjects of math and science."

Strongly supporting the actions of the U.S. Conference of Mayors is the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). Anthony (Bud) Rock, ASTC's Chief Executive Officer, thanked the Conference. "We appreciate the leadership of the U.S. Conference of Mayors on this important subject. Over 90 percent of our nation's science centers provide wide-ranging programs in support of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the classroom. By calling attention to the critical role science centers play in education, the mayors make the case that federal investments in science centers pay huge dividends in an educated and employable workforce."

Added Zwissler, "Like the U.S. Conference of Mayors, we call on Congress to fully fund science center programs. In many cases, it is the hands-on experience in a science center that encourages students to enter math and science training. There is no substitute to looking at a star through a telescope, holding a bone, or conducting a science experiment to stimulate a lifelong interest in learning."

Chabot Space & Science Center, a Smithsonian affiliate and Bay Area Certified Green Business, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit interactive science center whose mission is to inspire and educate students of all ages about planet earth and the universe. Founded in 1883, the Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. just off Highway 13 in the Oakland hills. For more information, visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org).

The Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of science centers and museums dedicated to furthering public engagement with science among increasingly diverse audiences. ASTC encourages excellence and innovation in informal science learning by serving and linking its members worldwide and advancing their common goals.

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Through strategic alliances and global partnerships, ASTC also supports science centers and museums in proactively addressing critical societal issues, locally and globally, where understanding of and engagement with science are essential.

Founded in 1973, ASTC now numbers more than 600 members in over 45 countries. Members include not only science centers and museums, but also nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, botanical gardens, and natural history and children's museums, as well as companies, consultants, and other organizations that share an interest in informal science education.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,210 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

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