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Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education

June 30, 2006

Representative Rush Holt
NJ District #12
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Holt:

It is with great enthusiasm that I offer my support to H.R. 5140, to establish the Teacher Congressional Award Task Force, with a non-profit entity to establish the operation of a program to recognize excellent elementary and secondary school teachers.

Numerous studies have confirmed the invaluable role of teachers in preparing students to achieve higher standards, and the critical link between teacher subject matter knowledge and student achievement. Today, more than ever, American society must recognize and reward excellent teachers, particularly in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. As our nation's economy increasingly depends upon a pool of technical talent, the role U.S. schools and teachers becomes ever-more critical. Providing a mechanism to recognize excellent K-12 teachers is a strategic and important task.

We at Stevens Institute of Technology are working with diverse school districts throughout the state, providing professional development and classroom support teachers to prepare New Jersey's K-12 students for success in our global economy. We applaud your efforts to bring public attention to the critical, but often-undervalued, role that teachers play in shaping the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and 21st century knowledge workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Beth McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth McGrath
Director
Center for Innovation in Engineering
And Science Education