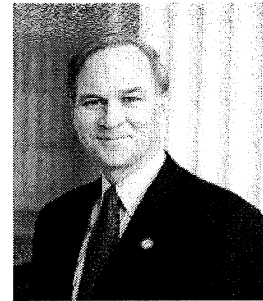




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

J. RANDY FORBES  
4TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



February 12, 2009

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA-Pre-Service Teacher STEM Training Workshop. I would like to commend the organizers of this workshop for their hard work and dedication in hosting such an important event.

For 14 years, the Pre-Service Teacher STEM Program has been instrumental in developing training methods for prospective math and science teachers in our nation's universities. This workshop helps to ensure our schools are sufficiently prepared to teach STEM courses and develop the next generation of American scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. I would like to thank all those involved with the Program for their invaluable contributions to our students.

America's global competitiveness is a direct function of the quality of our children's education from pre-K to college and beyond. In a time of unprecedented technological advancement and an increasingly competitive global marketplace, we must ensure that our nation's students acquire the skills they need to compete on a level playing field. This workshop provides a unique opportunity for educators to share ideas about programs that afford students opportunities to improve their skills in STEM disciplines. I encourage you take full advantage of these opportunities and invite you to enjoy your time in the Commonwealth.

Best wishes for a successful workshop and an enjoyable visit.

Sincerely,

J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress

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