



STATE OF ARIZONA

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As the chair of the National Governors Association, I welcome your interest in the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program.

The ATE centers, described in this publication, constitute a tremendous effort by our nation's community colleges. They have taken leadership roles with their partners in industry, government, and other education sectors to address workforce challenges. We all realize our ability to compete and lead in local, national, and global marketplaces is strongly dependent on the knowledge and skills of our workforce. The centers have risen to this challenge. They are influencing technicians' skills, teachers' skills, and the fundamental preparedness in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics of our existing and emerging workforce.

The nation's governors are vitally interested in working together to address these same challenges. States are the major investors in human capital through their support of education. Our education systems must prepare our young people to meet the real demands of the job market. Through my chair's initiative, Innovation America, I will co-chair a bipartisan task force of governors, business leaders, and industry presidents. We hope to lead the development of new strategies to create clusters of innovation and new approaches to math and science education for all students. Every state will share in our discoveries to ensure we are equipped to be competitive as a nation.

The United States has one of the most flexible economies in the world, one of the best education systems, and one of the most efficient private sectors. All these give us the foundation for the future. We must act now to shape that future. Join me in acknowledging the pioneering, innovative, and far-reaching efforts of the ATE centers described in this publication. Let us continue to expand these initiatives by working together for our nation's future.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano  
Governor