



For Immediate Release – February 23, 2012

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## STEMflorida, Inc. Releases 2012 STEM Index Report Highlighting Gap Analysis of STEM Career Pathways and Industry Demand

STEMflorida has released its 2012 STEM Index Report and Recommendations including a list of 217 occupations recommended for classification as STEM Jobs. The STEM Index sets out a new definition for STEM Job and for STEM Industry informed by a global scan of methodologies for STEM jobs classification and Florida's strategic and economic growth imperatives. The report also includes a deep view of five selected STEM career pathways in a Gap Analysis which highlights talent supply and demand overlaps and gaps.

The STEM Index, prepared with support from Workforce Florida, Inc., follows months of due diligence in collaboration with volunteers including private sector business leaders, state economists, educators, philanthropists, community and economic development experts, and workforce and talent partners.

"I applaud STEMflorida and the STEM Index Team for stepping outside the box in their efforts to reassess and define STEM occupations relevant to the economic development of Florida," said Chancellor Randy Hanna of the Florida College System.

The process of re-examining the definition of STEM Job for Florida has been set out in this effort to be relevant not just to the classroom, but most critically to the marketplace and to the demand for actual and projected jobs. The process intends to develop increased clarity for STEM Jobs and apply a reliable and rigorous methodology to a STEM classification process which ultimately includes or excludes occupations or even career pathways. In development of these recommendations, consideration was given to Florida's high-demand occupations and early guidance on base methodologies was leveraged from Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Labor Market Statistics (LMS).

Included in the STEM Index is the new definition of STEM Job:

A STEM Job requires application of knowledge across the areas of science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics, and demands higher order critical thinking and problem-solving skills. A STEM Job:

- Requires a post-secondary degree, industry certification/licensure, and/or advanced training;
- Links to career pathways with increased earning potential; and
- Provides opportunities for advancement and continuous learning in STEM and non-STEM fields.

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The STEM Index highlights critical gaps and overlaps in Florida's talent supply and demand for critical STEM-enabled industries through a Gap Analysis. This deep view of existing talent supply and demand across five selected career pathways can guide responsiveness of state and community partners from across the sectors of talent development and education, economic and community development, business retention, and philanthropy by empowering data-informed decisions. "If we do not know where our gaps are," cautions STEMFlorida, Inc. President Dr. Jimmie L. Davis, "where our needs and our opportunities are, we will fail to compete for our students and learners, for our STEM businesses, and ultimately in the increasingly global arena of STEM today."

More information on the STEM Index and a downloadable electronic version can be found at [www.STEMflorida.net](http://www.STEMflorida.net).

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#### **About STEMFlorida, Inc.**

STEMFlorida, Inc. is Florida's not-for-profit missioned to ensure demand-driven leadership for Florida's STEM movement. The organization serves as a convening source for STEM stakeholders across the state and its regions, and focuses on development of data, analysis, and resources to help leaders make informed decisions in the areas that matter most in STEM. STEMFlorida, Inc. is led by a demand-driven board committed to connecting relevant education and talent development efforts, philanthropic stewardship, and community/economic development collaboration and strategy around the demand-side needs of Florida's current, emerging, and target STEM employers.

STEM is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. In states and regions around the globe, leaders have reached across jurisdictions and industries to forge alliances, making STEM a table-stake for jobs, capital, and innovation. Urgent calls to action around STEM for the sake of global competitiveness are not new. *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, a 2005 report requested from the National Academies by Congress described the workforce needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the nation's current gaps and opportunities in providing the STEM workforce. The need for improving STEM talent development has been highlighted by reports of the Business-Higher Education Forum in 2005 and 2007. STEM received special Congressional attention in the 2011 Congressional budget and the reauthorization plan.