

Note from AFA President -- STEM, Cong Military Family Caucus

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, Civic Leaders, DOCA members, two weeks ago, the Wall Street Journal published an article that caught my attention. It was focused on STEM (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704381604575005023822489804.html>).

Takeaways from the article:

- The US remains the world's science and technology leader, but other countries are gaining ground.
- Over the last 10 years, US R&D spending rose 5-6% per year, but ... China's rose over 20% per year
- The US awarded 22,500 doctorates in natural sciences and engineering in 2007 -- with half of them going to foreign nationals.

Additionally, I checked out the National Science Board report ... upon which this article was based. [You can find it at: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind10/pdf/c01.pdf> Lots of information in this document -- I found a couple of interesting facts in the highlight section, starting on page 4:

- On-time graduation rate from high school remains steady ... at 73%. [Gasp!!]
- In 2005, 94% of classrooms in U.S. public schools had computers with Internet access, and the ratio of students to instructional computers was 4:1.

Secondly, I met last week with a staffer in the office of Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers. It seems the Congresswoman has -- with support of others -- started a Military Family Caucus -- which has 95 members. If your Representative is not on the list, please contact your MLA to get them interested. You can find the list at: <http://www.facebook.com/militaryfamilycaucus?ref=mf#/militaryfamilycaucus?v=info&ref=mf> [Note: there are at least 3 or more members not listed.]

For your consideration,

Mike

Michael M. Dunn  
President/CEO  
Air Force Association



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