



*The OHIO ACADEMY of SCIENCE*

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**STEM students challenged to think innovation & entrepreneurship.**

**Forum speakers paint a career path to the future through the application of science and engineering.**

For immediate release

(Hudson, OH. February 13, 2014). More than a dozen speakers at the Believe in Ohio February 22nd STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Forum hosted by Hudson High School will paint a path to the future for Ohio's students. STEM is the *mastery* and *integration* of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The more than 700 students and teachers will hear from some of Ohio's leading researchers and entrepreneurs talk about their successes in inventing the future.

“This is not just another meeting with ‘talking heads’, rather these speakers will challenge students to think beyond their normal comfort levels,” said Dr. Lynn Elfner, the Academy's Believe in Ohio Co-Director. “To be useful, STEM education must help students think how to apply their knowledge and interests to the marketplace through innovation and entrepreneurship,” he continued.

“Never before has our nation, our state, and our youth faced such an uncertain future,” remarked Mr. John Klipfell, Executive Director of Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio and Believe in Ohio Co-Director. “One thing is clear, however, our economy and the jobs of the future will require the application and integration of technology advancements in the marketplace to create the products and services of the future and fulfill the needs of people,” he continued.

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The following is the roster of distinguished speakers at the Believe in Ohio February 22, 2014 STEM Forum:

- Mr. Aram Nerpouni, Keynote Speaker, President of BioEnterprise (will speak about the business formation, recruitment and acceleration efforts to grow healthcare companies and commercialize bioscience technologies in Northeast Ohio)
- Mr. Jeffrey Charlap, Staff Toxicologist at WIL Research Labs (will speak about developments in the fields of toxicology and pharmaceuticals)
- Dr. Katrina Cornish, Ohio State University (will speak about bioemergent materials, value-added products and biofuels)
- Dr. Brian L. Davis, Chair, University of Akron Dept of Biomedical Engineering (will speak about developments in the field of biomimicry as related to medical devices)
- Mr. Jerry Davis, Chief Information Officer at NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California will speak about information technology developments)
- Dr. Ali Dhinojwala, Professor of Polymer Science, University of Akron (will speak about development in the field of polymer science)
- Dr. Julian Earls, retired Director – NASA Glenn Research Center & Executive in Residence at Cleveland State University (will host the program and offer his inspiring words of wisdom)
- Mr. Johnathan Holifield, Vice President of Inclusive Competitiveness at NorTech (will speak about the opportunities today's students will have in the future)
- Mr. Paul G.P. Hoogenboom, President, Tremco, Inc. (will speak about advanced material developments)
- Mr. John Klipfell, Exec Dir, Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio (will speak about the Believe in Ohio program and the Northeast Ohio Entrepreneurial Ecosystem)
- Mr. Chris Mather & Mr. Ted Theofrastous from the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center (will speak about developments in the world of advanced energy)
- Dr. Kurt Sacksteder, Chief of the Space Environment & Experimentation Branch of NASA Glenn Research Center (will speak about NASA's plans for space exploration)
- Ms. Elizabeth Sump, Director- Government Relations, Cleveland Clinic and Mr. JeShaune Jackson, Cleveland Clinic Innovations (will speak about recent developments at the Cleveland Clinic)
- Mr. Pat Valente, Executive Director of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition (will speak about the many developments in Ohio's growing fuel cell industry)
- Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jr., recently retired Associate Administrator for Mission Support at NASA (will speak about how NASA research and development over the years has been a catalyst for innovation throughout our economy)
- Dr. John West, Kent State University Trustees Research Professor (will speak about developments in the liquid crystal technology field)

The Ohio Academy of Science, Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio and NorTech jointly developed the Believe in Ohio program with support from the Ohio Board of Regents. The Ohio General Assembly appropriated the funding for the program.

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### Editor's notes:

**The Ohio Academy of Science** is the leading organization in Ohio to foster curiosity, discovery, and innovation and to unite all who value education, science, engineering, technology, or their applications for the benefit of society. Founded in 1891, the Academy is a membership based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. <http://www.ohiosci.org/>

**Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio (EEO)** is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation whose mission is to provide educational instruction, curriculum, research, mentoring and other information that helps develop the entrepreneurial, economic, business, and scientific literacy of students and the community. <http://www.eeohio.org>

**NorTech** is a regional nonprofit technology-based economic development organization serving 21 counties in Northeast Ohio. As a catalyst for growing Northeast Ohio's emerging technology industries, NorTech is leading efforts to develop regional innovation clusters that create jobs, attract capital and have a long-term, positive economic impact on the region. [www.nortech.org](http://www.nortech.org)