US2020 Announces San Francisco as a Winner of its STEM Mentoring Competition at White House Science Fair

City competition winners are part of multi-year campaign to boost STEM mentorship across the country

May 27, 2014 (San Francisco) – At the White House Science Fair today, responding to President Obama’s call to action to get more girls and boys engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), US2020 announced seven cities, including San Francisco, as the winners of a national competition to encourage mentoring in STEM.

Sponsored by Cisco and launched at the Clinton Global Initiative, the US2020 City Competition challenged cities to develop models for dramatically increasing the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students through hands-on projects. US2020 is focused on increasing STEM opportunities and STEM excitement for girls, underrepresented minorities and children from low-income families.

Public and private coalitions from 52 cities across the nation applied, engaging nearly 600 companies and civic organizations.

The other six winning city coalitions are: Allentown, PA; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Philadelphia, PA; Research Triangle Park, NC; and Wichita, KS

The winners will share $1 million in financial, consulting and staff support over the next year to launch their plans. Support includes communications consulting and training with Discovery Communications; funds to hire a local project manager; cohorts of capacity-building AmeriCorps VISTA members; access to US2020’s state-of-the-art volunteer matching platform, built in partnership by Tata Consultancy Services; pro bono management consulting services; and membership in the US2020 community of practice.

The plans developed by the seven cities represent some of the country’s most innovative thinking in engaging underrepresented and underserved youth in STEM.

SF US2020 -- led by UC San Francisco’s Science & Health Education Partnership in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office, SFUSD, Salesforce, and Techbridge -- will forge partnerships to connect STEM role models with middle school students.

“One of my highest priorities as mayor is to make sure San Francisco’s youth receive a quality education, both in and out-of-school, “ says San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. “We see the work of the US2020 directly complementing and strengthening my Middle School Leadership Initiative. I am excited by the opportunity to increase STEM mentors who are working with our students and getting them ready for the jobs in the 21st Century.”

SFUSD Superintendent Richard A. Carranza agrees. “We believe that the US2020 initiative is an amazing opportunity to bring STEM mentors and activities into our after-school programs. SFUSD middle school students will experience the joys of science and the diverse, rewarding career possibilities available in the STEM fields, ultimately helping to fill the STEM pipeline."

“From an exceptional pool of finalists, these winning coalitions demonstrated ambitious visions for the
proposed scale and quality of their mentor engagements, as well as the expertise to make their plans feasible, and strong potential for sustainability beyond the life of the US2020 grant,” says Eric Schwarz, Executive Chairman of US2020 and CEO and Co-Founder of Citizen Schools.

In San Francisco, Salesforce.com Foundation is the founding sponsor of US2020. “The Salesforce.com Foundation is committed to serving SFUSD to increase STEM opportunities for students,” says Suzanne DiBianca, President, Salesforce.com Foundation. “Over the past year, Salesforce.com Foundation has made a multi-million dollar commitment to upgrading the technology in SFUSD middle schools and provided over 1,700 volunteer hours to them. Salesforce is pledging another 5,000 hours to the schools in the coming year to focus largely on STEM mentoring programs.”

US2020 emerged from a White House call to generate big, innovative solutions to the STEM education challenge. The city competition was designed to tap into the convening power of city leadership as well as the potential for national service to play a leading role in helping the nation address its STEM education needs. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), in partnership with US2020 and Citizen Schools, has made a total investment of 29 AmeriCorps VISTAs to do the important work of engaging communities in this STEM mentoring initiative. Nineteen of these capacity-builders will serve in the seven winning cities with two serving in SF.

Today, new national US2020 partnerships were announced with Chevron and Discovery Communications as well as the Department of Energy.

Together, these leading cities, US2020 and its partners are pushing forward a movement. The vision of this movement is an America where every child, especially every girl, every child of color and every child from a low-income family, has the opportunity to be inspired to pursue a STEM career.

US2020’s founding partners are Cisco, Cognizant, Raytheon, SanDisk and Tata Consultancy Services, now joined by Chevron, with additional support coming from Discovery Communications, Fidelity Investments, HP, Salesforce, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

About US2020
US2020 is a new organization formed through a partnership of leading education non-profits and corporate leaders in the STEM field. The long-term goal of the initiative is to mobilize one million STEM mentors annually by the year 2020, creating millions of moments of discovery – those life changing events when children launch rockets, build robots, write a computer program, or look into the farthest reaches of the universe. US2020 relies on a committed and growing community of public, private, non-profit and individual partners.

About UC San Francisco
UCSF is the nation’s leading university exclusively focused on health. Now celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding as a medical college, UCSF is dedicated to transforming health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. It includes top-ranked graduate schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy; a graduate division with world-renowned programs in the biological sciences, a preeminent biomedical research enterprise and two top-tier hospitals, UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco. Please visit www.ucsf.edu.

About UCSF’s Science & Health Education Partnership
Initiated in 1987 by UCSF professor Bruce Alberts, the Science & Health Education Partnership (SEP) is recognized nationally and internationally as a model organization that supports quality science education for K-12 students through partnerships between scientists and teachers. Each year, UCSF SEP supports 300 volunteers working with San Francisco Unified School District teachers and students, contributing more than 10,000 hours. UCSF SEP also leads the Bay Area Science Festival, an annual 10-day celebration of STEM reaching 70,000 people. For more information, visit www.ucsf.edu/sep.

About Techbridge
Techbridge is a non-profit organization that empowers students to realize their dreams in science, technology and engineering. Since 2000, Techbridge has served over 5,000 girls in grades 5-12 through its after-school and summer programs. Additionally, Techbridge offers trainings and resources to families, role models, teachers and school districts to share best practices and guidance for inspiring students in STEM. For more information, visit www.techbridgegirls.org.

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