



SPIE

MATH & SCIENCE EDUCATION

SPIE - The International Society for Optics and Photonics; recognizes that strong math and science programs at all levels of education, from K-12 to higher education, are vital to our nation's long-term prosperity, global competitiveness and homeland security. SPIE Supports President Obama's policy effort to increase funding for math and science education through a variety of government agency and private sector initiatives. These include increasing the number of Americans with advanced degrees in science, mathematics, and engineering by making those degrees more affordable, and initiatives that are planned to boost one-time spending for laboratory and scientific equipment for the nation's secondary schools.

SPIE urges Congress to support:

- 1) \$450 million in funding for the FY2010 **Math and Science Partnership** program at the **Department of Education**.
- 2) A \$140.5 million increase for the **National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources Directorate** as planned under the *America COMPETES Act of 2007*
- 3) An increase of 8% to approximately \$5 million for the **DOE Office of Science**.

The Administration and Congress need to work together to create and enhance existing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs that can best meet the challenge of educating and training our nation's students. Reports such as the National Academies of Science's *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* (http://books.nap.edu/execsumm_pdf/11463.pdf) indicate that our nation's future competitiveness in the global marketplace is directly tied to the ability of our schools to prepare children for the technological economy of the 21st century.