

December 3, 2009
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
NASA Headquarters, Room 8R42
Washington, DC



On December 3, 2009, the NASA Office of Education hosted the NASA Industry-Education Forum at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. The purpose of the NASA Industry Education Forum was to obtain ideas on how NASA and industry can make a demonstrable impact on student achievements in STEM and their desire to pursue careers in the aerospace industry. Aerospace companies who had demonstrated success in STEM workforce development were invited. Participants presented innovative ideas to increase our collective impact on the future aerospace workforce. The forum accomplished its intent: provide a mechanism to start a dialog, identify areas for collaboration and explore next steps.

NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden opened the forum with greetings and introductions. He spoke about the importance of education and the role the aerospace community plays to ensure the future workforce. Following remarks from NASA Assistant Administrator for Education, Dr. Joyce Winterton and NASA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs and Outreach, Alan Ladwig, two NASA grantees provided a brief overview of existing programs that contribute significantly to STEM workforce development. Afternoon break-out sessions resulted in innovative ideas and input in the areas of recruitment, retention, and employment. During the afternoon plenary session, NASA Deputy Administrator, Lori Garver engaged the participants in a discussion of the importance of corporate volunteerism in the schools. A highlight of the forum was the Early Career Aerospace Professional Panel. The panel comprised early career aerospace professionals who were supported by NASA education programs during their post-secondary degree program(s). Each panelist provided a brief overview of their experience while receiving NASA support and responded to specific questions pertaining to increasing the future STEM workforce.

The 42 forum participants represented 18 aerospace companies, four universities, the leadership of AIA and AIAA, and NASA leaders in education, public outreach, human resources, and the mission directorates. At the close of the day, NASA senior leadership received positive verbal feedback from several of the industry representatives as well as AIA, AIAA leadership and university participants. Participant s' responses to the evaluation form expressed unanimous strong agreement that the forum was a good use of their time, generated innovative ideas, and that participants would welcome the opportunity to work with NASA to ensure a robust future aerospace workforce. A full report as well as well as a strategy for moving forward will be provided to participants and others upon request.

Pictures of the opening general session can be found at the following website:

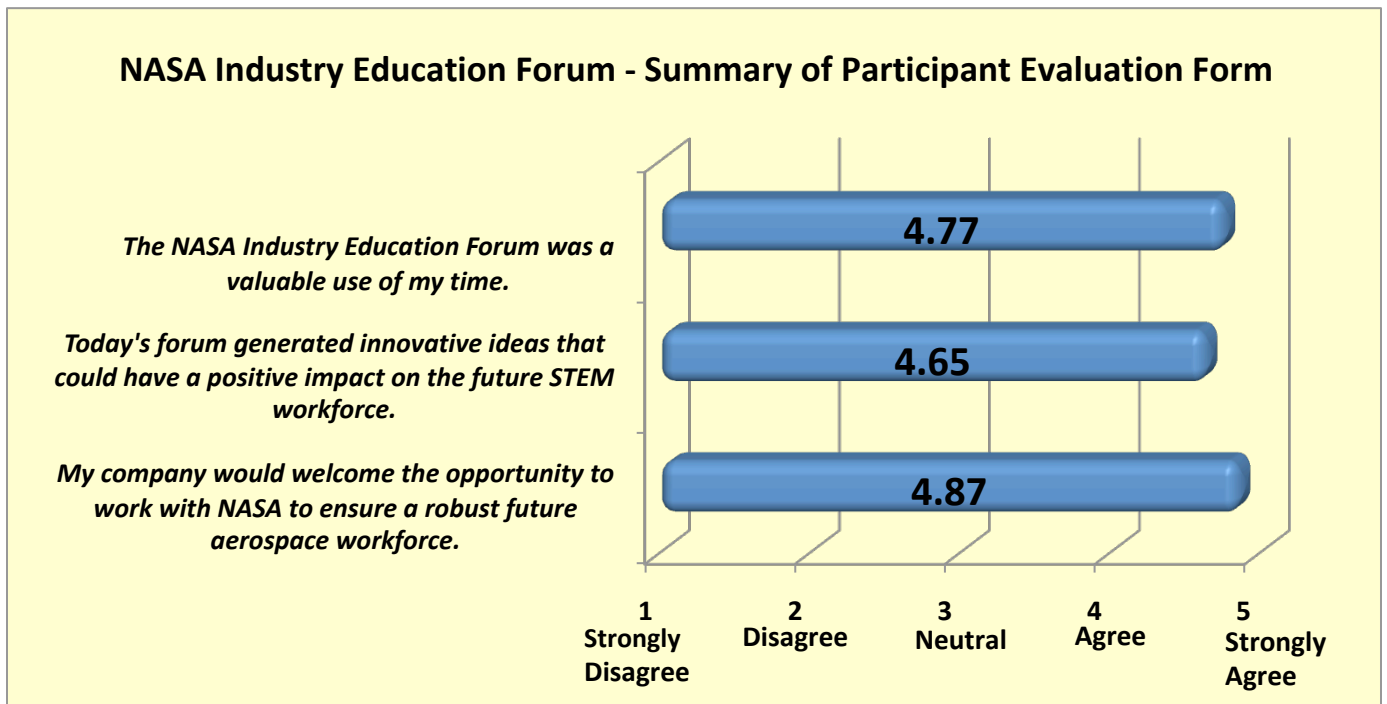
<http://gallery.me.com/nasahqphoto/100654>

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Summary of Participant Evaluation Forms

The purpose of the NASA Industry Education Forum was to obtain ideas on how NASA and industry can make a demonstrable impact on student achievements in STEM and their desire to pursue careers in the aerospace industry. The participant evaluation form was completed by 26 of the 42 participants. The responses indicated strong agreement that the forum was a good use of their time, generated innovative ideas, and would welcome the opportunity to work with NASA to ensure a robust future aerospace workforce. The results of the three Likert-type statements were unanimously positive (all statements were rated as Agree to Strongly Agree). The forum accomplished its intent: provide a mechanism to start a dialog, identify areas for collaboration and explore next steps.



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education programs during their post-secondary degree program(s). Each panelist provided a brief overview of their experience while receiving NASA support and responded to specific questions pertaining to increasing the future STEM workforce.

Description of Attendees:

The Forum was attended by 42 participants who were predominantly upper level director to senior management. There were four Early Career Aerospace Professionals (formerly supported by NASA education funds) who participated in all aspects of the forum and comprised a panel discussion during the afternoon session.

- 18 companies
- 4 universities
- leadership of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
- leadership of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Chairman of the NASA EPO Committee
- NASA leaders in Education, Public Outreach, Human Resources, and the Mission Directorates.

Results: Who else from your company should be engaged?

Orbital (Frank Culbertson) - Emily Bender, Carl Walz, Cathy Moore
Pratt & Whitney – Bill Cousins

Participant Comments on Evaluation Form:

- *Great meeting.*
- *Thank you for a great discussion.*
- *Great discussions!*
- *The forum is enthusiastic about our future education and STEM which is important to my future; a lot of exciting action items generated to benefit STEM.*
- *Excellent discussion – thank you!*

Post-Forum Feedback (received under separate cover)

- *Vice President of Jacobs: Thank you for including me in the session yesterday, I do appreciate the consideration. Jacobs is--and I personally am--very passionate about education and for early inspiration and involvement. I will coordinate with Jeannie to obtain feedback from our Centers as to opportunities and challenges, as well as a celebration of best practices. And thank you for your passion and dedication to this issue--we need more of you! I look forward to continued collaboration.*
- *Chief Strategic Officer of Paragon Space Development Company: The education conference was great. I'm glad to see the agency leading an effort to be comprehensive in their ability to affect it in the biggest way possible. I did get a better sense of how to find your best and brightest interns!*
- *Associate Director of NC Aerospace Initiative: Today I had the opportunity to attend a great meeting: the NASA Industry-Education Forum, held at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. The meeting started exceedingly well. We were greeted by the NASA Administrator, astronaut and Retired Marine Major General Charlie Bolden, who let us know that he considered it very important to NASA's efforts to grow the nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) capabilities. All in all, a terrific meeting, and I was happy to represent the NC Aerospace Initiative. Excerpts extracted from blog: <http://www.graymanwrites.com/forums/blog.php?b=375>*