SLOPE i3 Project

Congressman McNerney joins Advisory Panel for CA Investing in Innovation Project to Improve Middle School Student Success in Algebra and Access to STEM Careers

Antioch, CA – Congressman Jerry McNerney, who represents California's 9th District and serves on the House Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Caucus, has joined the STEM Learning Opportunities Providing Equity (SLOPE) Investing in Innovation (i3) Project Advisory Panel. The SLOPE i3 Project is focused on helping all students succeed in Algebra 1 the first time they take the class, which is considered critical for college and career preparation. The SLOPE i3 Project also builds student awareness about how math is used in careers in the fields of science, technology, and engineering, and helps students understand the range of postsecondary options in their community so they can start planning the steps they can take to pursue such careers. The SLOPE i3 Advisory Panel meets annually to steer and review the project.

"We know that STEM jobs will help our economy grow and allow us to succeed in a competitive world economy. That's why I want many more California students to pursue STEM careers," said Rep. McNerney. "Algebra is critically important for students to succeed in future STEM classes. Through the SLOPE i3 project, students gain confidence and competency in Algebra and see how they can use math to solve real-world problems. I am pleased to join the Advisory Panel for this exciting project."

"The SLOPE i3 Advisory Panel is comprised of distinguished members of the STEM community, including mathematicians, scientists, and educational experts," said Sharon Twitty, the SLOPE i3 Project director. "Because of Congressman McNerney's impressive STEM education and engineering experience, his input on the SLOPE i3 Advisory Panel will be tremendously valuable."

Rep. McNerney has a Ph.D. in mathematics and has worked as an engineer and an energy consultant, and prior to his election to Congress he founded a company to manufacture wind turbines.

"Congressman McNerney's mathematics background and engineering and technology industry experience will add tremendous value to the discussion and guidance for the SLOPE i3 Project," said Chris Roe, the CEO of the California STEM Learning Network and a member of the SLOPE i3 Advisory Panel.

Rep. McNerney toured a SLOPE i3 Project classroom at Park Middle School in the Antioch Unified School District in December. He observed the project in action and talked with students about their experiences with the SLOPE approach to learning algebra. SLOPE i3 algebra classes use a combination of project-based learning, college and

career curriculum, and coaching to support teachers. Students are encouraged to work together in teams to discuss complex math problems, apply math concepts to real-life questions, and analyze algebra deeply and collaboratively.

"It was really encouraging to see that all students in the classroom, irrespective of their background or previous math experience, were working together to solve algebra problems," said Rep. McNerney. "A solid algebra foundation is very important for all students, and I'm looking forward to being a part of the SLOPE i3 Advisory Panel."

For more information about the SLOPE i3 Project, visit http://arches-cal.org/i3/.

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