



Developing US STEM Talent

Roundtable Discussion with Leaders in Tennessee

June 15, 2021

Members of the National Science Board (NSB) and 20 Tennessee state leaders met virtually on June 15 to discuss developing domestic talent in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for the workforce of the future.

Developing US STEM talent is a top priority of the NSB as reflected in its Vision 2030 report. NSB member and University of Tennessee, Knoxville Professor Suresh Babu initiated a roundtable discussion so that Board members could hear first-hand the experiences, strategies, and insights of leaders working on TN's education initiatives.

University of Tennessee (UT) President Randy Boyd hosted the roundtable which included representatives from UT, the TN general assembly, state departments and commissions, and external partners, including [TNAchieves](#), the Governor's office, the Chamber of Commerce, and the [TN STEM Innovation Network](#). NSB Chair Ellen Ochoa and NSB members Roger Beachy and Julia Phillips joined Suresh Babu in the roundtable.

The robust discussion covered a range of TN education programs and initiatives, such as the [TN Promise](#), which has brought additional students into higher education, opening doors for those who had not seen college as an option. Participants also discussed programs that focus specifically on STEM, such as the TN STEM Innovation Network and the [UT-Oak Ridge Innovation Institute partnership](#). TN participants stressed the strong bipartisan support in the state for taking substantive action to develop the talent that the state needs for its workforce.

As the NSB said in [Vision 2030](#), over the next decade, the US must focus heavily on developing America's STEM talent at all educational levels, from skilled technical workers to PhD researchers. America's future economic prosperity and national security depend on it. The TN Roundtable will inform the Board's work to advance this goal.