

American Competitiveness Initiative

In his February 2006 State of the Union Address, President Bush issued the *American Competitiveness Initiative* (ACI), a comprehensive initiative to spur U.S. innovation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by establishing new programs and allocating funding to research and development efforts and math and science education.

TechNet believes the foundation for innovation is excellence in science, mathematics and technology. For our nation to remain competitive in the global economy, we must continue to produce skilled scientists, mathematicians, engineers and innovators. The *American Competitiveness Initiative* proposes \$380 million in new Federal support to build on the commitment to strengthen our nation's education system, specifically in the arenas of math and science.

Key education components of the American Competitiveness Initiative include:

- *Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) Program* to expand access of low-income students to rigorous course work by training 70,000 additional teachers to lead AP/IB math and science courses and to increase the number of AP/IB math and science tests passed by low-income students to 700,000 from 230,000;
- *Adjunct Teacher Corps* to encourage up to 30,000 math and science professionals to become adjunct high school teachers.
- *A National Math Panel* to evaluate empirically the effectiveness of various approaches to teaching math and science and to create a research base to improve instructional methods and materials;
- *Math Now for Elementary School Students* program to promote promising and researched-based practices in mathematics instruction and to prepare students for more rigorous math courses in middle and high school;
- *Math Now for Middle School Students* to diagnose and remedy the deficiencies of students who lack math proficiency and to provide proven methods of intensive and systematic instruction aligned with the goals of NCLB;
- *Evaluation of Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education programs* across agencies to determine which are effective in meeting their stated goals; and
- *Include Science Assessments in NCLB* accountability to ensure children are learning the necessary content and skills to be successful in the 21st century workforce.

The ACI provides the tools for students to achieve their potential in the critical fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, enabling the U.S. to maintain its leadership in increasingly competitive and innovative global markets and industries.