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Cambridge Promotes Opportunities in STEM:  
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Job Preparation

CAMBRIDGE MA: The City of Cambridge held a STEM Inclusion Roundtable on Thursday, March 28, 2013 to address the low number of students choosing to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, commonly referred to as STEM. The roundtable grew out of the Mayor's participation in a White House Summit on Technology Inclusion, held at the end of January, as well as the selection of Cambridge as one of three pilot cities for the Activate Local Communities Across America Initiative (ALC). The other two cities chosen to participate in ALC are Chicago, IL and Portland, OR.

The STEM Inclusion Roundtable was sponsored by the Mayor's Office, the Whitehouse Office of Science and Technology Policy Microsoft Research, and the America21 project. Held at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, it brought together about 150 public, nonprofit, institutional and private partners, as well as parents, to explore a comprehensive approach to expanding science and technology career preparation opportunities in the Cambridge community.

"We have all heard that the US is falling behind in math and the sciences," said Mayor Davis, "but did you know that by 2018 there will be 1.4 million STEM jobs open and at this rate they won't be able to be filled, with only 30% of the current workforce possessing STEM related skills? If we look at girls and under-represented minorities, the disparity is even more acute."

Mayor Davis said that Cambridge stands out when it comes to innovation and technology shaping our future. "The city is home to one of the most innovative square miles on the planet, Kendall Square. MIT and Harvard are centers of the globe's top STEM programs. Many of the families and the city's youngest residents grow up in the shadow of Kendall Square, yet not enough young people in Cambridge look at the abundance of jobs in Kendall Square and say to themselves 'I will work there someday.' That's got to change."

According to Davis, as a leading center of innovation and cutting edge technology, Cambridge has a responsibility to make sure that the accompanying opportunities are accessible to all the city's residents, regardless of background or income level. "We want young people to have a

sense of all the possibilities available to them and to learn how to build those skills that will make them players in a competitive workforce.” said Mayor Davis.

In addition to city and school officials, participating in the Roundtable, non-profits and leading companies and universities such as Google, Microsoft, Harvard, and MIT, and major bio-tech firms from Cambridge.

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