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Responding to President's Call to Action, US2020 Announces 7 Cities – including Wichita – as Winners of its STEM Mentoring Competition at The White House Science Fair

City competition winners announced as part of multi-year campaign to boost STEM mentorship across the country

WASHINGTON, DC – Today at the White House Science Fair, responding to President Obama's call to action to get more girls and boys engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), US2020 announced seven cities, including Wichita, as the winners of a national competition to encourage mentoring in STEM.

Sponsored by Cisco and launched at the Clinton Global Initiative, the US2020 City Competition challenged cities to develop innovative models for dramatically increasing the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students through hands-on projects. US2020 is specifically focused on increasing STEM opportunities and STEM excitement for girls, underrepresented minorities, and children from low-income families. Public/private coalitions from 52 cities across the nation applied, engaging nearly 600 companies and civic organizations.

The 7 winning city coalitions, representing over 200 companies and organizations, are:

- Allentown, PA; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Philadelphia, PA; Research Triangle Park, NC; San Francisco, CA; Wichita, KS

The winners will share \$1 million in financial, consulting and staff support over the next year to launch their plans, including:

- Communications consulting and training with Discovery Communications;
- Funds to hire a local project manager;
- Cohorts of capacity-building AmeriCorps VISTA members;
- Access to US2020's state-of-the-art volunteer matching platform, built in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services;
- Pro bono management consulting services; and
- Membership in the US2020 community of practice.

“From an exceptional pool of finalists, these winning coalitions demonstrated ambitious visions for the proposed scale and quality of their mentor engagements, as well as the expertise to make their plans feasible, and strong potential for sustainability beyond the life of the US2020 grant,” said Eric Schwarz, Executive Chairman of US2020 and CEO and Co-Founder of Citizen Schools.

The plans developed by these seven cities represent some of the country’s most innovative thinking in engaging underrepresented and underserved youth in STEM. “STEM and innovation are words that are binding Wichita together towards a common goal. The US2020 award strengthens our commitment to the future of our region and nation, “ said Anthony Vizzini, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Wichita State University.

US2020 emerged from a White House call to generate big, innovative solutions to our STEM education challenge. The city competition was designed to tap into the convening power of city leadership as well as the potential for national service to play a leading role in helping the nation address its STEM education needs. **The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), in partnership with US2020 and Citizen Schools, has made a total investment of 29 AmeriCorps VISTAs to do the important work of engaging communities in this STEM mentoring initiative.** Nineteen of these capacity-builders will serve in the seven winning cities. Two VISTAs will serve in Wichita.

“NetApp congratulates the City of Wichita and is proud to work closely with the city on their STEM mentoring initiative,” said Joel Reich, senior vice president of the E-Series products group at NetApp. “As a company, NetApp is committed to enriching the communities in which our employees and neighbors live and work. Through Wichita’s STEM mentoring initiative, NetApp is extending our reach beyond the WSU Innovation Campus and other schools, to further excite and engage the community’s youth in these fields.”

US2020’s founding partners are Cisco, Cognizant, Raytheon, SanDisk and Tata Consultancy Services, now joined by Chevron, with additional support coming from Discovery Communications, Fidelity Investments, HP, Salesforce, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

Cisco is a founding partner of US2020 and the official sponsor of the US2020 City Competition. Cisco continues to build upon its two-decade long commitment to STEM education, supporting major programs to develop a robust pipeline of students interested in entering STEM fields. As part of its commitment to US2020, Cisco has pledged that 20% of its U.S. workforce will volunteer 20 hours or more in STEM mentoring by 2020.

Today, new national US2020 partnerships were announced with Chevron and Discovery Communications as well as the Department of Energy.

Together, these leading cities, US2020 and its partners are pushing forward a movement. The vision of this movement is an America where every child, especially every girl, every child of

color and every child from a low-income family, has the opportunity to be inspired to pursue a STEM career.

About US2020

US2020 is a new organization formed through a partnership of leading education non-profits and corporate leaders in the STEM field. The long-term goal of the initiative is to mobilize 1 million STEM mentors annually by the year 2020, creating millions of moments of discovery – those life changing events when children launch rockets, build robots, write a computer program, or look into the farthest reaches of the universe. US2020 relies on a committed and growing community of public, private, non-profit and individual partners.

About STEMpact2020 – Wichita’s STEM Alliance

STEMpact2020 partners with US2020 to promote high impact STEM mentoring in our community. The coalition members are: Airbus, Beechcraft, Kansas Big Brothers, Big Sisters, The Boeing Company, Catholic Diocese, Cessna Aircraft Company, Children's First A-STEM, City of Wichita, Communities in Schools, Exploration Place, Girl Scouts – Kansas Heartland, Great Plains Ventures, High Touch, Kansas Mentors, Koch Industries, MKEC, National Institute for Aviation Research, NetApp, Pathways to Health Careers, PEC, Real Men, Real Heroes, Spirit AeroSystems, Success in the Middle, Tect Aerospace, TRIO/Upward Bound Math Science Center, TRIO/Upward Bound/Wichita Prep, USD 259, Volunteer Kansas, Wichita Chamber, WSU – College of Engineering, WSU Foundation, Young Professionals of Wichita, and Youth Horizons.

To learn more about Wichita’s US2020 efforts, called STEMpact2020, visit:

<http://www.stempact2020.org> or contact Lawrence Whitman at larry.whitman@wichita.edu