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**TO ALL GOVERNORS:**

The National Governors Association (NGA) is pleased to announce a new partnership with the *Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge* to encourage the exploration of science among America's youth and promote the importance of STEM education. We invite you to alert your schools of this opportunity and encourage both your students and teachers to participate in the competitions.

America's competitive edge in the global marketplace rests in part on our ability to identify, motivate and train tomorrow's workforce in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

As you read this, the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians are sitting in classrooms across the country wondering what the future holds for them. The next medical breakthrough, or clean energy technology, or revolutionizing mode of human transportation could be locked inside one of their minds.

The *Young Scientist Challenge* is the premier national science competition for students in grades 5 through 8. This year students will be challenged to create a one- to two-minute video about a specific scientific concept and submit the video online. An independent panel of judges will review all entries and select 51 semi-finalists, one from each state and the District of Columbia. From these, 10 finalists will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in a series of individual and team challenges, some of them in front of a live audience.

In addition, this year's competition will feature the first-ever Science Teacher Competition, with science teachers vying to demonstrate core science principles – such as Newton's Laws of Motion, Aeronautics and others – in innovative ways.

Official entry rules, deadlines and prizes can be found at <http://youngscientist.discoveryeducation.com>. NGA will send additional information about the status of the competition over the coming months and will notify you when the 51 semi-finalists are announced.

It is critical to our nation's economic future that we stimulate tomorrow's leaders in STEM education, as these disciplines will provide the critical thinking skills necessary for our students to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. NGA believes the *Young Scientist Challenge* is a powerful vehicle to help accomplish this goal.

If you have any questions, please contact NGA at 202-624-5301.

Sincerely,

Governor Tim Pawlenty

Governor Edward G. Rendell