



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Future of Innovation: Redefining Science Class

U.S. schools teach about science. It's time for students to be scientists.

DENVER— We have to change our definition of science class from one of students following to one of students creating to ensure the United States doesn't lose its innovative edge, KnowAtom Founder and CEO Francis Vigeant said Tuesday at the fourth annual Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America) meeting.

Scientists create ways to answer questions and engineers create ways to solve problems. When students can be scientists and engineers in the classroom, they get a glimpse of their own creative potential. The impact of unlocking students' potential cannot be overstated.

"By changing the classroom environment to a place where students work hands-on to tackle challenges, you empower students to discover their own world," Vigeant said. "That's a proven and sustainable model for STEM instruction."

This is an exciting time to be a STEM educator because momentum is growing among educators, policymakers and STEM industry to rethink STEM instruction in the classroom. Now that 12 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Next Generation Science Standards, it has become clear that the practices of STEM are missing from most K-12 classrooms. The National Research Council has also raised the bar for what we accept as effective STEM instruction. Memorizing isolated facts will no longer cut it. Students will be expected to make connections between various scientific disciplines and apply their knowledge to new scenarios.

By transforming the STEM classroom, we can transform the future workforce. Every employer hopes to hire people who can ask the right questions and solve the right problems. Having a STEM-literate workforce will improve our capacity for leadership and innovation globally. The U.S. Commerce Department expects STEM jobs to continue to grow at a faster rate than other jobs in the coming decade. Unless we intend to become a nation of followers, we all have a stake in developing the next generation of STEM innovators. And that begins with changing how we approach science in every classroom, beginning in elementary school.

About Clinton Global Initiative America

The Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America), a program of the Clinton Global Initiative, addresses economic recovery in the United States. Established in June 2011 by



President Bill Clinton, CGI America brings together leaders in business, government, and civil society to generate and implement commitments to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, foster innovation, and support workforce development in the United States. Since its first meeting, CGI America participants have made over 300 commitments valued at more than \$15 billion when fully funded and implemented. To learn more, visit cgiamerica.org.

Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), an initiative of the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders year-round and at its Annual Meeting to create and implement solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. CGI also convenes CGI University, which brings together undergraduate and graduate students to address pressing challenges in their communities and around the world. To date, members of the CGI community have made more than 2,800 Commitments to Action, which are already improving the lives of more than 430 million people in over 180 countries. When fully funded and implemented, these commitments will be valued at \$103 billion. For more information, visit clintonglobalinitiative.org and follow us on Twitter @ClintonGlobal and Facebook at facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative.

About KnowAtom

KnowAtom provides a solution to STEM education that builds higher order thinking skills while using next generation STEM practices. Founded in 2006 and headquartered in Salem, Mass., KnowAtom enables more than one million hours of hands-on STEM learning in elementary and middle school classrooms every year. As a result, most students are also increasing their STEM proficiency, as measured by their state's standardized test scores when compared to their peers from the year prior. KnowAtom focuses on what matters: bringing students and teachers together to do real science and engineering every day in the classroom, and transforms STEM education in the process.

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