



Statement on NASA Earth Science Education  
Presidential Transition Team  
January 6, 2009

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Scientists of today are working hard to study and respond to environmental, economic and societal challenges related to climate change. But it's the scientists of tomorrow who will soon bear the responsibility of tackling these issues using the latest tools and technology.

As we move towards a green economy, NASA STEM education, in particular that related to Earth system science, will be increasingly important for preparing students to meet employers' needs for workers with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

NASA has invested in many high-quality Earth science education programs and resources that draw upon the expertise both within and external to NASA. These programs are based on the study of Earth as an integrated system – including biology, chemistry and physics – and support lifelong learning opportunities targeted for formal and informal education audiences of all levels. NASA should continue to provide strong support for Earth system science and climate education programs

and resources that impact science curriculum across disciplines.

A high priority should be given to NASA Earth science education programs that emphasize pre- and in-service teacher education and professional development. *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future* (National Academy of Sciences, 2007) emphasized the effectiveness of such programs, and the book's phrase “10,000 teachers, 10 million minds” strikingly illustrates the power of one teacher to influence 1,000 students throughout their careers.

A critical function that NASA can provide is access to Earth observations data and tools in formats that are useable by the broad formal and informal education communities, as well as the necessary training and education resources for understanding and using this data. Examples of such NASA programs exist, but should be increased and expanded to better support the education community in using NASA Earth observations data.