



At a Time When We Need it Most—A Voyage that will Forever Change Your Perspective of Home

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Abstract

America's leadership in science and technology markets has helped secure the standard of living Americans have enjoyed for decades. Currently the U.S. employs close to one-third of the world's researchers in science and engineering, and accounts for 40% of all R&D spending, though possesses only 5% of the world population. Yet at the dawn of the 21st century the United States faces an unprecedented level of global competition in emerging science and technology markets, and whose sobering consequences are addressed in a February 2006 report of the National Academy of Sciences titled *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*.

One driver of emerging markets is innovation-based development in science and technology, and in this context, American innovation must be the means to maintain a leadership role. Yet America's technical workforce is aging, and the number of students choosing careers in science and technology fields, and who are also U.S. citizens, is decreasing.

As a benchmark, Goldman Sachs projects that the combined economies of the BRICs can surpass those of the G6 in just 40 years. Long term strategic planning to ensure U.S. competitiveness into the future is required now. In this context, the engineers entering the job market in just ten years *are currently in 6th grade*. Science education programming that can captivate and inspire, deliver on curricular requirements and national benchmarks, and target even elementary school grades, *is now of national strategic importance*.

How do you captivate students, their parents, and teachers through strategic, systemic, and sustainable science education programs? It's all about immersing them in a powerful story.

After dinner on Monday night, join Dr. Jeff Goldstein, Director of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, for a *Voyage* that will forever change your perspective of home. It is a story that ignites wonder about the universe, and a sense of pride in our ability to reveal its nature through both human imagination and ingenuity. It humbles us, and brings a sense of humility to our lives. It is the story of our existence—a race of explorers, 6 billion tiny souls strong. It is a story capable of inspiring the next generation.

A copy of Dr. Goldstein's presentation may be found in the Presentations section of your conference binder.