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**Heller Authors Bill to Promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fields in Nevada Schools, Workforce Development Programs**

**WASHINGTON –** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) has introduced the Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act, legislation to promote the expansion of programs within the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Ultimately intended to enhance the technical skills of Nevada’s students and emerging workforce, this legislation specifically directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to distribute grants for programs that encourage innovation and continued specialized education.

“This legislation ensures that schools in Nevada, including two-year degree programs, can help equip students with the skills they need to be qualified candidates for jobs that require a background in science, technology, engineering, and math,” **said Heller.** “As a strong proponent of legislation that enhances Nevadans’ opportunities for success, I’ll continue working with my colleagues on solutions that will help students and Nevada workers compete in today’s global economy.”

As a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Heller has helped author and navigate into law several pieces of legislation to promote STEM programs. Earlier this month, [Heller’s measure to encourage STEM-specific programs at elementary and high schools](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CA0CCDAE-462B-4ACC-9503-5CE3574A5D0C) was signed into law as part of  bipartisan, bicameral funding legislation. Specifically, this measure required the U.S. Department of Education to assess how to coordinate with related agencies to ensure that our nation’s students have access to STEM-specific programs at their schools.

[Heller also introduced the Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explores (INSPIRE) Women Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/1/heller-advocates-for-more-stem-careers), which aims to encourage women specifically to pursue careers in the STEM fields through supporting initiatives such as NASA GIRLS, Aspire-Inspire, and the Summer Institute in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Research. This legislation was signed into law in February of last year. [Heller’s legislation to provide resources and authority for educational assistance for veterans to pursue STEM programs, computer programming, and career technical training](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/8/senate-passes-comprehensive-g-i-bill-that-includes-three-heller-provisions) was also included in the comprehensive, bipartisan Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, which became law in August of 2017.

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