

# CONGRATULATING ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

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(Extensions of Remarks - January 15, 2010)

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff, students, and faculty at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for winning the 2009 Star Innovator in the Intel Schools of Distinction competition.

- Supporting mathematics and science in education is crucial to our national prosperity. The U.S. workforce is dramatically changing, and the demand for highly skilled jobs is rising. In the recent years the employment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics--or "STEM"--fields increased by an estimated 25 percent.

- Every year, Intel honors U.S. schools that demonstrate 21st century teaching and learning environments that promote excellence in math and science with the Intel Schools of Distinction awards. To be considered, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks put forth by national mathematics and science content standards.

- The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy uses competency-driven learning experiences to enable students to acquire strong bases of disciplinary content knowledge and skills. Students at IMSA design and conduct hands-on experiments, make observations, analyze data, draw conclusions, and communicate evidence-based principles. Students also delve into the scientific literature and build understanding by synthesizing information and investigation through writing. These skills and abilities are then extended with electives and through the Student Inquiry and Research, SIR, program. Through SIR, students partner with cutting edge scientists on diagnostics, nanotechnology, medical research, and much more.

I am honored to join Representative Foster in congratulating the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in receiving

this prestigious honor, the Star Innovator in the Intel Schools of Distinction Award.