

# Schatz invited to speak at national program

August, 2006

Dear Mr. Schatz:

On behalf of Dr. Ralph Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Wm. A. Wulf, President of the National Academy of Engineering, I would like to invite you to speak about at our upcoming Convocation on Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing Regions, States, and Cities for a Brighter Economic Future that will take place on Thursday, September 28th at our headquarters in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the Convocation is to

- (1) Convene leadership of industry, government, research, and education community from all 50 states and the federal government;
- (2) Share knowledge and encourage leadership of initiatives at the state and local level to strengthen US competitiveness, and
- (3) Discuss current national proposals to respond to the nation's competitiveness challenge and their implications for states, localities, and regions.

This event is being held at the one-year anniversary of the release of our report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future” which has influenced the President’s State of the Union and budget, Congressional legislation, and a number of Governor “State of the State” speeches and budgets. The Convocation will focus on the four recommendations in that report: K-12 and higher science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, research, and innovation environment.

We believe you could best contribute to the Convocation as part of a panel discussion at a workshop entitled “How to enhance the skills of existing K-12 STEM teachers” by discussing the Washington State Laser Program. As a workshop speaker, you will represent a best practice program and provide “how to” details to convocation participants so that are encouraged to take and have the tools necessary to conduct similar actions for their state, city, or region. You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Description of Program
- Overview of Program Effectiveness and Outcomes (ideally quantitative, but at least qualitative)
- Challenges Faced
- What You Would Do Differently If You Did It Again.

Each of the workshops will last about 1 hour with three speakers presenting the information above for about 5 minutes each. The short speaking time is so that there is plenty of time for discussion with the convocation participants. In addition, your program will be highlighted in the Convocation agenda and on our website.

We expect the Convocation audience to be 300-500 federal, state, and local policymakers, economic development, industry, and business leaders, K-12 teachers and school board members, university and college leaders, researchers, students, unions, foundations, and non-governmental organization representatives. The number and nature of the attendance at each of the workshops will vary. The event is open to the public and we do expect press to be in attendance.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are willing and able to accept this invitation. We will pay the travel expenses associated with your coming to this meeting. If you are unable to accept our invitation, please let us know that as well and perhaps you could suggest someone else who you think might be able to participate in the workshop.

For more information on the Convocation, please visit our webpage at [www.nationalacademies.org/gatheringstorm](http://www.nationalacademies.org/gatheringstorm).

Economic competitiveness is a national challenge which we all must pursue. Your national leadership has been and remains necessary for all Americans to take actions to respond to that challenge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debbie Stine

Deborah D. Stine, PhD  
Associate Director, Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy  
Study Director, Rising Above the Gathering Storm  
The National Academies  
500 5th Street  
NW Washington, DC 20001  
Voice: 202-334-3239  
Fax: 202-334-1667  
[www.nationalacademies.org/cosepup](http://www.nationalacademies.org/cosepup)  
[www.nationalacademies.org/gatheringstorm](http://www.nationalacademies.org/gatheringstorm)