

About ASTRA

Our Mission...

ASTRA connects, convenes and communicates STEM policy and research findings across the U.S. and Global STEM ecosystem. Our goal is to improve the nation's R&D, Innovation and STEM Talent capacity by increasing funding, understanding — and importantly, the “messaging” about the importance of the global innovation ecosystem to policy makers.

We were founded in 2000 by a bipartisan coalition of individuals and organizations. They were alarmed by the perceived erosion and potential collapse of the U.S. scientific and engineering R&D enterprise.

ASTRA unites stakeholders including scientists, engineers, researchers, companies, academic institutions, foundations, media, students, government agencies and international organizations in common purpose.

POLICY RESEARCH

ASTRA has pioneered econometric and policy research into the complex relationships between economics, scientific R&D, competitiveness and emerging technology issues through such initiatives as our **Innovation Vital Signs Project**, annual **State STEM & Innovation Report Cards**, and deep metrics generated through its Big Data resources.

A Systemic Approach to Policy, Practice & Solutions

We apply a systems approach to designing and implementing projects that address **scientific Research, Policy and Practice**. ASTRA measures economic impact, job creation, funding flows and reports daily on innovation and STEM developments through a robust Web platform and social media.

CONNECT

Our outreach is to more than 68,000 “Friends of ASTRA” worldwide, as well as 160 companies, universities and foundations that have provided financial and volunteer support. These entities in turn represent an estimated 3.7 million U.S. scientists, researchers, STEM professionals, students, economics and community-based groups

COMMUNICATE

ASTRA maintains this “virtual” community of organizations and individuals through two key Web Sites, including www.usinnovation.org We distribute the

U.S. Innovation Today news aggregator and are an established provider of STEM metrics relating to the STEM workforce, STEM education, and R&D Connectedness. Member organizations are able to use our data analytics to provide understanding of STEM metrics in great detail.

COLLABORATE

ASTRA periodically circulates petitions, Action Alerts and conducts Briefings to provide a forum and gathering point for diverse components of the STEM community. We also do this through Hill Briefings, National Town Halls, and Virtual Visits.

CONVENE

ASTRA serves the lead organization for the Annual **STEM on the Hill™ Congressional Visits Day**. This event has been held every spring for the past 23 years. We help manage the **Annual George E. Brown, Jr. Award Program** to meritorious Members of Congress who have served as STEM Champions for our community.

PRACTICE

Since its inception, ASTRA has fostered recognition that our future peace and prosperity as a nation depend upon our innovation capacity. In recent years, ASTRA has expanded its focus beyond policy research toward a more holistic, futures-focused commitment embracing research policy and practice. ASTRA is partnered with the Global NETGeneration of Youth in our joint worldwide outreach to younger students, and it is launching the new **ASTRA STEM & Innovation Scholars Program** in 2018 with major foundation support.

OUR FUTURE

ASTRA Research Projects — Highlights

Major ASTRA policy research has been performed for the U.S. Technology Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce (The Innovation Vital Signs Project), the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Raytheon Foundation, the Rockwell Collins Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, the Alcoa Foundation, the Northrop Grumman Foundation and the David & Lucille Packard Foundation. ASTRA has also conducted research for the Cisco Foundation on successful STEM programs nationwide and is involved in significant data visualization programs for policy-related data for other organizations.

ASTRA is a tax-exempt IRC 501(c)(3) educational research organization headquartered in Washington, D.C.

