NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
2019-01-02 (SEC/HEOC-01)

Recommendation:
The NASA Advisory Council recommends that NASA continue to inspire the next generation and encourage them to pursue STEM careers through direct interaction with students, particularly in underserved communities. NASA is uniquely positioned to inspire the next generation. The Council notes the need for a budget commensurate to meet this requirement. In addition, the Council commends the Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM) and its continuous improvement approach to its work. It is making good progress on the work plans previously presented (i.e., Business Services Assessment findings, NASA STEM Engagement strategy, Federal Five-Year STEM Plan).

Major Reasons for the Recommendation:
As NASA pursues Artemis, a long-term sustainable program to return American astronauts on American rockets to the Moon by 2024, now is the time to inspire and build this next generation workforce. The budget required to accomplish this needs to be provided to achieve these goals. This would be helpful to the economic improvement of disadvantaged locations. With regard to OSTEM, it continues to align their STEM engagement programs for maximum impact, and continues to leverage scalability of their reach through strategic partnerships.

Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:
Lack of workforce in the future and lack of public support for current programs.

NASA Response:
NASA concurs with the recommendation for the agency to continue to inspire the next generation and to encourage them to pursue STEM careers through direct interaction with students, particularly in underserved communities. The Office of STEM Engagement continues to provide leadership across the agency in aligning its STEM Engagement programs and activities to the new NASA Strategy for STEM Engagement, to facilitate student contributions to NASA's work and to create mission-driven student opportunities. The Office is also striving for increased impact and reach via scalability through strategic partnerships. OSTEM is also collecting information about different methodologies and approaches to inspiring the next generation and will provide a report to the NASA Advisory Council STEM Engagement Committee regarding its findings.

Enclosure