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Tuesday, June 26, 2018

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SECRETARY ALLEN TO JOIN LANDMARK GATHERING OF STATE & FEDERAL STEM EDUCATION LEADERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT WILL HELP INFORM NEXT 5-YEAR STEM EDUCATION STRATEGY

MADISON – Secretary Ray Allen of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development participated in the first-of-its-kind State-Federal Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Summit hosted by The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on June 25-26, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

"STEM education is an integral part of growing our workforce to anticipate the needs of our businesses in Wisconsin," Secretary Allen said. "Students that pursue careers in STEM fields find strong job growth, good wages and room for advancement."

The State-Federal STEM Education Summit convened a diverse group of state STEM leaders, including officials from governors' offices, K-20 educators, workforce and industry representatives, state policy experts, and non-government organization executives. The attendees participated in the development of a new federal 5-Year STEM Education Strategic Plan in compliance with America COMPETES Act of 2010.

"This event is the first time an administration has asked for this level of state input when developing a federal STEM education strategy," said Jeff Weld, senior policy advisor and assistant director for STEM education at OSTP. "Top-down approaches to STEM education can often yield wonderful ideas, but it's at the state and community level where the momentum happens. State leaders know best what kinds of programs will work in their communities, and where they need the power of the federal government to help drive success in this field. STEM education is critical to preparing our students for the jobs of the future. We must do everything we can to ensure that federal, state, local, and tribal governments, communities, educators, and private industry partners are united for the long-term success of our nation."

Assisting OSTP in planning the summit were the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Smithsonian Institution.

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