



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROMISE ZONE HOSTS STEM FORUM TO EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS AND CREATE PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS WHO LIVE OR ATTEND SCHOOL IN THE ZONE**

Sacramento, CA | The Sacramento Promise Zone hosted a STEM forum on November 15, 2016 at Washington Elementary School to focus on creating an effective and broad pathway for students in the Promise Zone to engage in STEM related academic preparation. The event brought Sacramento's non-profit organizations, academic institutions, businesses, corporations, civic leaders and residents together to chart a course for collectively moving forward. Promise Zone officials say the goal is to elevate STEM programs and partners to reach a broader and diverse group of students who live or attend school in the Promise Zone.

Promise Zone Director Tyrone Roderick Williams says the event is unprecedented in terms of what organizers expect to accomplish with input from the participants.

"The pathway starts in elementary school and extends through college and career, and right now there are some disconnects," said Williams. "We're coming together to strategize on how to connect the dots to create a STEM training pathway. Our goal is to equip students in the Promise Zone to be prepared for the current and future STEM job market in Sacramento."

The forum featured a special presentation by Dr. Karl Reid, Executive Director of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). They are national leaders in creating and supporting successful programs that target students of color and their parents in STEM programs and activities.

Dr. Reid remarked that Sacramento Promise Zone has a recipe for success with the STEM program because it is utilizing what is known as a mutual impact model that includes five steps of a collective methodology.

"One is a common agenda or goal which in Sacramento is the STEM program, and another is shared metrics on which everyone agrees to track, follow and disseminate," said Dr. Reid. Other steps include mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication to make sure everyone is aware of what's going on, and lastly, a backbone organization that is responsible for ensuring that everyone is working together and being held accountable.

Washington School is the newest elementary school in the Sacramento City Unified School District which opened a year ago. A tour of its state of the art STEM classrooms and resources will be offered after the forum. The event will also provide an opportunity to identify current Science, Technology Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs offered by local partners, identify national partners, and expand funding sources.

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Sacramento received a Promise Zone Designation on April 28, 2015 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The designation creates a partnership between federal, state and local agencies to give local leaders proven tools to improve the quality of life in some of Sacramento's most vulnerable areas. Sacramento is one of eight Promise Zones in the country announced in the second round of designations from 123 applicants in 36 states, including Washington DC and Puerto Rico, and then only recipient in Northern California. [www.sacramentopromisezone.org](http://www.sacramentopromisezone.org) @sacpromisezone