




Interoffice Memorandum

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Andrea Wesser-Brawner 
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SUBJECT: **June 23, 2020** – Work Session Agenda Item
Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Workforce
Development Initiatives

On June 23, 2020, staff will present to the Board an initial slate of pre-collegiate and collegiate Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) workforce development programs, prioritized based on their existing impact metrics, equitable reach across underrepresented demographics, and representation of STEM field recruitment in our community.

Due to Orange County's heavy reliance on the tourism and hospitality industries, as well as current high unemployment rates, there exists a need for industry diversification within our region.

The opportunity to assist in this effort ensures local STEM related workforce development initiatives are available to fill current, non-tourism vacancies, especially those critical to County functions, while supporting these unique skill sets for future talent.

Regardless of the need for STEM skills training, private sector sponsorships for these programs have become endangered as a result of revenue shortcomings. Therefore, it is important for Orange County to support these programs and ensure accessibility to all young adults, especially those traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields.

This presentation is for informational purposes only and no action is requested of the Board at this time.

AWB/mf