

# INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

The Innovation & Technology Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies and programs that foster innovation and creativity, that make L.A. a more desirable place for technology companies and entrepreneurs to locate and grow their businesses, that increase the supply of technically skilled workers and entrepreneurs and that lead to a more transparent, accessible and efficient government.

## Support comprehensive immigration reform to build a skilled workforce

The Chamber supports comprehensive immigration reform with greater specificity on the needs of the technology industry. Sensible and comprehensive immigration reform is needed in order to drive our booming technology industry with new entrepreneurs and secure a globally competitive future workforce. Congress should establish a streamlined process for admitting future workers and entrepreneurs, including an increase in the number of H1-B visas, creation of a new STEM green card category, and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented residents.

## Foster greater certainty for innovators

Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to focus on building their products and companies rather than face frequent intimidation from extortion attempts and other threats to their livelihood. The Chamber supports patent reform policies that establishes a

proper framework for patent disputes. For certainty in business practices, companies should be able to comply with government data collection needs while balancing their right to protect sensitive and proprietary consumer data. The Chamber advocates for clear policies and guidelines for data gathering that allow companies to safe-guard consumer data information.

## Increase government open data and transparency

Government data can revolutionize many industries and stimulate entrepreneurs to create innovative solutions and services. The Chamber supports greater government transparency and information sharing with the public to unlock the potential for imaginative and data-driven outcomes by public and private entities. We look forward to providing business community expertise and input on best uses and education for the entrepreneurial community.

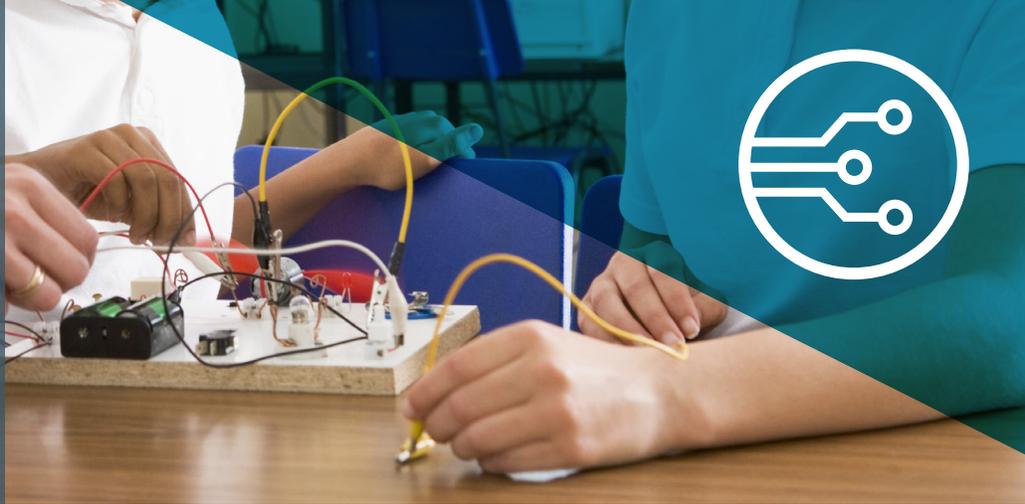
## Bolster STEM education efforts in public schools and colleges

As the information economy grows, it will need a steady supply of diverse, technically skilled and educated employees to infuse companies with their creativity and talent. To increase the supply and quality of L.A.'s talent pool, Bixel Exchange at the Chamber supports industry based skills education expansion, continuing education and career pathways development that harness the expertise of science and technology leaders. The Chamber

connects students directly to the region's growing tech community and employers through private and public partnerships that provide critical skills training for future employees and nurture the next generation of tech leaders.

## Increase targeted investments in high growth industries

With 900 service sites across the country, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide key touch points for small businesses and entrepreneurs to gain mentorship and assistance in growing their companies. Congress should increase targeted investments of federal resources toward SBDCs that focus on advising companies in high-growth industries.



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