



## TEACHING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INC

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### **TSTI Support of "Student Teacher Aerospace Education in Rural Schools"** **(STAIRS)**

Teaching Science and Technology (TSTI) is proud and excited to support Kevin Simmons and TEKNA-THEOS in their new outreach program, STAIRS. I first met Mr. Simmons through the NASA funded TeachSpace program during the Summer of '05 and am deeply impressed by his commitment to inspiring kids and enabling teachers to math and science excellence through involvement in space exploration.

The STAIRS program is an audacious program that goes far beyond the usual menu of curriculum writing and science fairs. STAIRS is an integrated approach to bring astronautics and biotechnology into high school science/math classrooms using an entrepreneur model for teacher development. Students and teachers team with government and industry experts to apply what they learn by designing, building and testing biomedical space payloads. At the same time, they develop life-long organizational and interpersonal skills as they work with the business community to form startup companies that move their ideas from academia to real-world implementation.

TSTI has a long history of working with NASA education, teacher training and new engineer development. We partnered with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to invent and implement the NASA-funded TeachSpace workshops which equip and motivate high school teachers across the country every summer. In addition, NASA continues to have us into all their sites with about 35 classes per year for their working engineers. The Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office have us entwined with their new professionals while both Boeing and Lockheed Martin are ensuring that their new space employees are run through our courses.

TSTI partnership with STAIRS is a logical extension of our ongoing commitment to space education. We look forward to working with Kevin and TEKNA-THEOS to developing and conducting an ongoing series of workshops for teachers and students. We'll provide basic space education, teacher resources and key insight into NASA's exciting space initiatives and programs. At the same time, we at TSTI get to do what we love to do: teach and motivate teachers and high schoolers. We can't wait to start!

Sincerely,

Dr. Randall K. Liefer, President and Partner