



For Immediate Release

Barbara Lee Awards Innovative Eastbay Program a Special Congressional Recognition

Oakland, CA May 4th 2016 - Today, Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Office awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to Calculus Roundtable for their work bringing STEM to Communities of Color in the Bay Area. Calculus Roundtable's unique approach inspires students not by cheerleading but through building motivation for rigorous high level math and science through a series of fundamental skill building techniques.

The occasion was during a site visit of the OpenDORS initiative, an innovative new Bay Area project where students from across the Eastbay region, participate in hands on and online, project based activities. Students work online, in teams and as individuals to solve mathematical and scientific quandaries and build well needed math and science skills. Over 120 students have already participated in this program from as many diverse backgrounds as there are across the Bay. Students from 1st grade to 12th grades collaborated and sometimes competed on projects in multiple locations. Students from various Silicon Valley schools are building a teen digital learning center at the San Jose Public Library while students from a Richmond public housing community learn Environmental Science by dissecting virtual frogs, online.

The Congresswoman commended Calculus Roundtable for its "creativity" and its, "profound dedication to STEM educational development in Eastbay communities of color."

The event was held at the Community School of Creative Education (CSCE), a Waldorf inspired public charter school in Oakland. One of the many accolades of CSCE is that it is the most culturally diverse school in Alameda County. Educators, school board members and elected officials' staff from across the region were in attendance.

Sonja Bustamante, Chief of Staff from Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia's office commented that: "to see the program in a school setting was inspiring".

Jim Hollis, Executive Director of Calculus Roundtable noted, "the power of the program is letting students play a part in developing their own portfolio of activities and learn from each other's instruction."

On average, students participating in the Eastbay OpenDORS Initiative self-selected and completed STEM-based activities, at a comprehension level, two grade levels above their current grade. While students, unknowingly selected more difficult curriculum than their grade level would suggest, according to Hollis, "Over 60 percent of students scored at grade level or higher on in class assessments".

The Calculus Roundtable is an Oakland based, non-profit organization dedicated to opening opportunities in math and science for students: particularly for students of color.

All inquiries go to info@calcround.org