



For Immediate Release

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Visits Calculus Roundtable

Recently, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier of California's 11 Congressional District paid a visit to witness for himself, an innovative educational program, The Digital One Room Schoolhouse (DORS). DORS is an initiative of the Calculus Roundtable, a non-profit education organization dedicated to creating alternative pathways in math and science for students; particularly students of color.

Congressman DeSaulnier, sponsor of the [Strong Start for America's Children Act \(H.R. 2411\)](#), is a strong believer in addressing the "whole child" in the classroom. He's also a supporter of the [Caring Start Act \(H.R. 2217\)](#), which provides training and technical assistance to Head Start providers focused on trauma-informed approaches and early mental health.

On his visit Congressman DeSaulnier tapped into his experience as a local Head Start Commissioner to review a group of 12 Richmond California 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, working to build an online roller coaster using software that allows students to design and engineer their own coaster, using beginning algebra skill builders.

"We need to do more to expand and improve early learning opportunities." Said DeSaulnier. "I am proud that programs like The Calculus Roundtable in Richmond are helping prepare our students and future leaders for success in an increasingly competitive economy."

According to a 2015 U.S. Department of Education study, there will be a 14 percent increase in STEM jobs across all occupations by 2020, yet only 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in math and interested in a STEM career. Calculus Roundtable's DOR program motivates students around a set of hands on and online STEM based activities, building critical skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

Over 250 students across the Eastbay participate in online DORS activities. Each set of activities is aligned to standards, grade specific, culturally relevant and inclusive of California's vast and diverse population.

While the program is only in its third year, early results show significant growth in middle and high school students. Seventy percent of last year's students in the DORS program, scored 2 grade levels higher on a standardized science and math assessment than their grade placement.

Jim Hollis, Director of the Calculus Roundtable is a veteran of California school reform efforts. "We believe our approach empowers students by reinforcing the math and science they already know."

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.

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Check us out at www.calcround.org

images from the visit available on 