It is incumbent upon us as a community of political leaders, policymakers, educators, school administrators, the business community, and, most importantly, students, to shape the future of our state through educational opportunities that give our young learners the foundations they need to be ready for the jobs of tomorrow.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown

STEM Ready America is a visionary work. There is no one better to guide this important contribution than Ron Ottinger, given his leadership of nearly every major informal STEM learning endeavor in this country and his work to strengthen STEM learning during the school day. This valuable collection paints a picture of the essential work taking place in STEM education—work that wasn’t happening even 20 years ago—and where it could lead us in the next decade.

Terry K. Peterson Ph.D., editor, Expanding Minds and Opportunities

Kids in afterschool programs get hooked on STEM early, and that spark leads to a world of possibilities.
Collectively, these articles describe a major sea change in American’s STEM education landscape beyond the school day. The articles provide summaries of extensive evaluation and research studies that clearly illustrate the value of informal STEM learning and in-depth discussions of recent efforts to bring together teachers and afterschool program providers to coordinate their efforts so as to optimize the complementary advantages of each setting.

Jim Gates, Ph.D., Professor, University of Maryland
noted physicist and advocate for STEM Learning

STEM [afterschool] programs have the potential to make extraordinary positive impacts on individual lives. What is needed now—if we are to widen the pipeline of STEM talent and significantly increase the rates of youth entering and exiting high school STEM-capable and STEM-interested—are diverse and extensive networks that can amplify the impacts of such programs nationwide.

Jim Clark, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Jennifer Sirangelo, President and CEO, National 4-H Council
Kevin Washington, President and CEO, YMCA of the USA
Judy Vredenburgh, President and CEO, Girls Inc.
Jim Chesire, Bolster Mission Consulting/Imagine Science