



The Secretary of Energy

January 25, 2010

As Secretary of Energy, it is my pleasure to commemorate the first annual National Nuclear Science Week.

This week presents an opportunity for Americans to learn about and explore the importance of nuclear science domestically and abroad. It also gives us a platform to continue the nationwide discussion about the need to recruit the next generation of experts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Department of Energy's support for graduate fellowships, competitive research awards, and state-of-the-art scientific tools in areas of nuclear physics, nuclear chemistry, and nuclear engineering is preparing the next generation nuclear science workforce. President Obama has made it clear that training the next generation of U.S. scientists and engineers is critical to our future energy security and economic competitiveness.

Through its network of National Laboratories and its partnerships with universities, professional associations and private industry, the Department of Energy supports and fosters scientific research and development in a myriad of applications. Additionally, the National Nuclear Security Administration, an agency within DOE, is primarily focused on stewardship of the nation's nuclear stockpile, oversight of the world's largest nuclear nonproliferation program and responsibility for the U.S. Navy's nuclear propulsion program.

National Nuclear Science Week is a chance to highlight our past accomplishments; focus on the future; engage teachers, parents and students; and foster a deeper public understanding of nuclear science.

I am delighted that so many entities – both public and private – have banded together to support this inaugural event, and I hope this is the first of many efforts to increase awareness and promote careers in science across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

