



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 23, 2012

Greetings:

As Secretary of Energy, it is my pleasure to commemorate the third annual National Nuclear Science Week. I want to congratulate the public and private entities who have worked together to launch this important recognition for the nuclear sciences.

Last month, we marked the 60th anniversary of the first successful demonstration of civilian nuclear power for electricity. Despite the enormous technological advances we've made in the last six decades, America's nuclear future remains a vitally important field for research and scientific discovery. The challenges and opportunities that lie ahead – in both the civilian and defense sectors – will require the talents of our best and brightest scientists.

The Department of Energy remains strongly committed to supporting graduate education, competitive research and advanced scientific tools in the areas of nuclear physics, nuclear chemistry and nuclear engineering. Through its National Nuclear Security Administration, the Department of Energy stewards the U.S. nuclear stockpile, provides oversight of the world's largest nuclear nonproliferation program, and bears responsibility for the U.S. Navy's nuclear propulsion program. We share your commitment to fostering a deeper public understanding about nuclear energy, nuclear education, nuclear medicine and all of the nuclear sciences.

This week is an opportunity for educators, industry and citizens across our country to speak out about the critical value of nuclear science and technology to our future energy security and economic competitiveness. As a platform for a nationwide discussion on the need to recruit the next generation of students to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, National Nuclear Science Week plays an important role.

Again, congratulations to everyone participating in this worthy endeavor, and thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

