



# DUPONT SUMMIT 2013

..... Pressing Issues, Economic Realities

December 6, 2013 \* Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

The Policy Studies Organization

## **Speaker**

Dustin Ashley – *Mountain Empire Community College/Southwest Virginia Community College*

### **“Increasing Interest of Emerging Technologies Within Students and Improvement Within STEM Education”**

As of right now, many of our greatest thinkers have either died or could die at any time. Many people of the newest generation lack any interest in STEM or any of the emerging technologies that our civilization depends upon. Many young STEM students and professionals are only interested in making the quickest buck and end up at a low paying job with no interest in moving forward. This has got to stop.

At this moment, many universities are attempting to add a variety of majors that fit within the needs of our growing society. Sadly, most are just starting or are at universities that are only for the best of the best.

The best and most efficient solution to this problem is to introduce STEM education and the emerging technologies throughout the educational system. Most programs like this that exist are small and lack the sufficient funding required to maintain their existence there. If the students are encouraged enough and are interested enough in what is provided, we can ensure that our progress will continue on for the next few decades.

The major objectives are as stated:

1. Introduce more STEM programs at both the high school and collegiate level.
2. Encourage students to gain an interest in STEM and emerging technologies
3. Increase funding to colleges that host these programs

Not only will this grant us a new generation with thinkers that will bring about great progress, but will continue from the foundations that their predecessors have left behind.



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## **Biography**

**Dustin Ashley** is a college student, dual-enrolled to both Mountain Empire Community College and Southwest Virginia Community College. He is majoring in Engineering and working towards a PhD in physics and a PhD in both electrical and mechanical engineering. He spends most of his free time writing for different transhumanist groups, writing programs in C and Java, and reading William Gibson.