

FROM OUR READERS: Better preparing our nation's students

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To the editor:

I was encouraged to read the Review-Journal's Wednesday editorial, "Attracting math and science teachers," because America has fallen behind in these two critical fields. We need innovative ideas to re-establish America as a leader because our young men and women will graduate from school and enter a work force more competitive than ever.

Today, our competition expands beyond Utah and California into places around the globe such as China, India and Europe. Math, science and technology can lead the way, but we need to better prepare our students.

Too often in today's classrooms we have educators, not scientists and mathematicians, teaching our children about geology, chemistry, algebra and geometry. Instead, America should place more math majors and science majors in our classrooms. Because they love these subjects, they can bring an unparalleled passion and enthusiasm to inspire our students.

In the Senate, I have taken the lead on competitiveness legislation which encourages investment in basic research and strengthens education from elementary school to graduate school in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Together, these are two important steps toward ensuring that our children receive a stronger education in these core subjects. I encouraged the Nevada legislature last month to take the lead in changing how we teach math and science, and I look forward to continuing my work on federal efforts to keep our state and this nation globally competitive.

John Ensign

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