

66th International Astronautical Congress 2015

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

Author: Ms. Kathryn Robison
The University of Alabama, United States, katrobison@gmail.com

STEM AND THE HUMANITIES: HOW THE BIFURCATION OF DISCIPLINES IS HARMING THE
WORKFORCE

Abstract

Over the last decade, education in the United States and other countries have focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives in order to develop the work force available to enter into these disciplines as graduates. However, recent studies have begun to highlight issues emerging as a result of the bifurcation of the STEM disciplines from Humanities and Liberal Arts disciplines, including a deficit in the ability of researchers in the STEM disciplines to communicate their importance to the general public. For many involved in the space industry, much of which is heavily reliant on public funding and or political support, this can create a significant barrier to progress. This paper will explore how either a renewed focus on comprehensive education or an integration of workers with Humanities or Liberal Arts experience can serve to create a stronger, more diverse workforce capable of leveraging public buy-in and support for future endeavors in the space industry.