



Rep. Tom Emmer on Starbase

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hi everyone, Congressman Tom Emmer here. Thank you for letting me join you virtually today. I want to start out with a congratulations to today's graduates. Today is a big day for all of you sitting in this room. New engineers and scientists who successfully completed the STARBASE program. You should be so proud of yourselves. It's also a big day for the teachers who worked alongside of you and with you during your time in this program. And it's a big day for the business leaders, volunteers, and friends and families who dedicated their time, energy, and financial support to make this day and many more like them possible. Science, technology, and engineering, mathematics, and mathematics, STEM-based skills are becoming increasingly important to the future of our country. These industries will need more employees than many other sectors in the coming years, which is why STEM education is so important to the great state of Minnesota. Focusing on STEM education will allow us to increase our competitiveness and an increasingly trade focused global economy, and it's going to help improve our future economic success. Recently, I had the pleasure of touring STARBASE and was blown away by what this place is doing for students like you. Since 1993, STARBASE has helped cultivate more than 40,000 Minnesota students STEM skills. Through this education, these students have gained hand-on experience and learned how to think creatively and innovatively. Today, you're leaving STARBASE with the tools and skills necessary to prepare you for success in your future education and chosen careers. When you leave here, I hope your passion and drive for learning continues to grow and thrive. I hope you continue to embrace STEM education and experiences and walk through the numerous doors these new skills will open for you. Congratulations on your graduation and accomplishments within the STARBASE program. I look forward to seeing where you all go from here. Thanks and enjoy the day.

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For questions or corrections: mn06watch@gmail.com