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STEM
Southeastern Massachusetts Network

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twenty-five Southeastern MA Schools Selected for STEM Expo

On May 24, 2012, five hundred middle school students will meet with sixty-plus STEM experts determined to get the kids excited about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers and education pathways. Twenty-five schools, from Canton to the Cape, have now been selected to participate.

Schools will attend in two tracks: Teams of 30 students and three adults will participate in workshops, demos, and other hands-on activities such as identifying native turtles, cleaning up a mock oil spill, driving underwater robots, building a winning football team, and conducting a well-baby checkup.

In addition, School District Community Teams of 10 educators and community members will evaluate the Expo as a way of starting or growing their own school district STEM initiatives.

Participating districts are: Attleboro, Barnstable, Brockton, Canton, Dartmouth, Dennis/Yarmouth, Easton, Foxborough, Freetown/Lakeville, Hanover, Holbrook, Mansfield, New Bedford, North Attleboro, Norton, Pembroke, Plainville, Plymouth, Provincetown, Sandwich, Sharon, Taunton, Whitman/Hanson, Weymouth, and Westport.

The event, being held at Bridgewater State University, is being organized by the Southeastern Massachusetts/Cape and Islands STEM Network. Katherine Honey, the event coordinator, describes the goal: "The purpose of the STEM Expo is to provide students with meaningful, engaging STEM activities, as well as to allow schools to meet and share resources to expand the STEM initiatives they already have in place."

Among the 60 exhibitors are companies, schools, colleges, and community resources including Verizon, HarborOne Credit Union, The Massachusetts Air & Space Museum, the MIT Club of Cape Cod, and Signature Healthcare-Brockton Hospital. Kathy Zagebski, Executive Director of the

National Marine Life Center, is hosting an exhibit on working with marine animals. Elaborating on the importance of STEM education, Zagebski says, “Working with marine life provides insight into marine conservation issues, which is an important aspect of science education.”

The SE MA STEM Network is funded by the MA Department of Higher Education and administered by CONNECT, a partnership of the six public institutions of higher education in Southeastern Massachusetts. Members of the SE MA STEM Network include schools, employers, colleges and universities, museums, community leaders and others dedicated to raising student preparedness for and interest in technology-related careers.

For detailed information on exhibitors, workshops, and schedules, visit the STEM EXPO WEBSITE at <http://www.connectsemass.org/stem/stemexpo.html>.