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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2017

SE MA STEM Network hosts fifth Resource Fair. Remarks to be provided by
Congressman Joseph Kennedy and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Co-Chairs of the
Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

On May 18, 2017, the SE MA STEM Network will host its fifth STEM Resource Fair at Bridgewater State University. The theme is "Educating for the Future, 2020 & Beyond," a topic that has been prevalent throughout all of the Network's initiatives and activities this year. Over 150 participants, representing PK-12 education, business & community, higher education faculty & staff, community organizations, parents, and elected officials are expected to attend this event, which will be held in the Mohler-Faria Science and Mathematics Center.

Highlights will include Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy, who will Skype from Washington, DC, and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, who will provide welcoming remarks highlighting the Commonwealth's STEM priorities and initiatives that illustrate how all students can develop the STEM skills they need to succeed in the 21st century workplace. We are extremely honored to have Congressman Kennedy and Lt. Governor Polito participate in this event, as they are co-chairs of the Massachusetts Stem Advisory Council and have genuine passion for and interest in STEM education.

Following remarks provided by Congressman Kennedy and Lt. Governor Polito, a panel, facilitated by Bridgewater State University President Fred Clark, will discuss the importance of business & education partnerships, illustrating how they are beneficial to business, educators, and students. Panelists, who represent a wide variety of STEM stakeholders including: PK-16 educators, business leaders, administrators, higher education staff, and community members, will share how they focus their efforts on providing work-based learning opportunities for educators and students, raising awareness about early college career pathways, and fostering interest in STEM fields within underrepresented student populations.

Over thirty exhibitors, representing education, business, government, and community organizations, will provide resources and activities to engage all STEM stakeholders. Exhibitors include: AccuRounds, American Association of University Women, DePuy Synthes, North Easton Machine, Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School, Robbins Children's Programs, and South Coast Educational Collaborative. In addition, *Envision the Future* participants will join their STEM community team exhibitors to demonstrate how they have replicated components of the 2015 program.

The event is open to the public, but registration is required. To register, please navigate to <http://connectsemass.org/stem>. If you would like additional information about SE MA STEM Network initiatives, please contact, Katherine Honey, network coordinator at khoney@comcast.net.

CONNECT is a partnership of the five public higher education institutions in Southeastern Massachusetts: Bridgewater State University, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massasoit Community College, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Established in 2003, our mission is to leverage the quality, strength, resources, and excellence of the five public higher education institutions of CONNECT, and to enhance educational effectiveness and efficiency while improving student success, increasing educational attainment, advancing economic health, and strengthening cultural life throughout the region. CONNECT serves as the administrator of the SE MA STEM Network, which is funded by the Department of Higher Education's STEM Pipeline Fund. If you would like additional information about CONNECT, or any of its initiatives, please contact, Stacey Kaminski, executive director, at stacey.kaminski@connectsemass.org.