



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 21, 2011**

**Media Contact:** Teresa Barber, Director

Fairfield Index, Inc.

813.777.6151 | [tbarber@fairfieldindex.com](mailto:tbarber@fairfieldindex.com)

## **STEM*florida* announces 2011 Best Practices Awards to be Honored at ThinkSTEM**

Following rounds of due diligence and calls to leaders across Florida's stakeholders and STEM-enabled industry, STEM*florida* announces the 2011 roster of honorees for Best Practices. These best practices will be honored at a Think Tank on June 24 in Orlando hosted by STEM*florida*, Inc. at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport. The roster of honorees represents some of the most promising practices throughout Florida.

The 2011 STEM*florida* Best Practices Honorees are as follows:

### **Award: Best Pilot Teacher Training Program for Accountability and for Market-Relevant Exposure to STEM Industry Settings, and Utilization of the Educator as a STEM Evangelist**

Program/Effort: Teacher Quest Tampa Bay Pilot Program

Honoree(s): Florida Technological Research and Development Authority

<http://theendeavouracademy.com/teacherquest/tampa/index.html>



**Award: Excellence in a Targeted Classroom Effort Designed to Focus Specific Intervention Efforts at Core STEM Academic Skills Improvement**

Program/Effort: SunBay Digital Mathematics Partnership, Year 2

Honoree(s): SRI International; USF-St. Petersburg

<http://sunbay.sri.com/>

**Award: Excellence and Accountability in Targeted STEM Teacher Recruitment and Retention Efforts**

Program/Effort: UTEACH

Honoree(s): University of Florida; Florida State University

<http://uteach-institute.org/news/detail/featured-program-fsu-teach-at-the-florida-state-university/>

<http://ufteach.clas.ufl.edu/partners.html>

**Award: Best Effort Honoring Florida's Top STEM Scholars and Targeting Retention of Scholars into Florida's Educational Pipeline**

Program: Sunshine State Scholars

Honoree(s): Florida Education Foundation

<http://www.floridaeducationfoundation.org/news/florida-education-foundation-hosts-redesigned-sunshine-state-scholars-program>

**Award: Best STEM Informational Video Targeting Engagement in a Challenged Target Industry Cluster**

Program: Exploring Microgravity (video)

Honoree(s): Space Florida, Inc.

[http://www.spaceflorida.gov/images/stories/docs/4\\_2010%20education%20fact%20sheet.pdf](http://www.spaceflorida.gov/images/stories/docs/4_2010%20education%20fact%20sheet.pdf)

**Award: Best Collaborative Response to Emerging STEM-enabled Industry Needs**

Program/Effort: Workshop with Industry Leaders from Water Resources regarding Certifications and Licensures



Honoree(s): Florida Department of Education Career and Adult Education;  
Industry Advisory Council of the Employ Florida Banner Center for Water  
Resources

[www.fldoe.org/workforce/](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/) and [www.waterbannercenter.com](http://www.waterbannercenter.com)

**Award: Best Integration of Research-based STEM Efforts with Teacher  
Training Targeted at Increased Engagement of an Underserved Population**

Program/Effort: SNMREC Educational Outreach

Honoree: Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center at FAU

[http://snmrec.fau.edu/SNMREC\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_STYLIZED.pdf](http://snmrec.fau.edu/SNMREC_Fact_Sheet_STYLIZED.pdf)

**Award: Excellence Integrating Needs of STEM-enabled into Engaging  
Curriculum and Educational Outreach Resources**

Program/Effort: FLATE Educational Outreach and Integrative Efforts

Honoree: Florida Advanced Technological Education Center (FLATE)

[www.fl-ate.org](http://www.fl-ate.org)

**Award: Excellent Cross-curricular Middle School STEM Academy**

Program/Effort: STEM Academy at Greco Middle School

Honoree: Greco Middle School

<http://greco.mysdhc.org/>

**Award: Best STEM-enabled Conservation Internship**

Program/Effort: Conservation Biology-Botany Internship

Honoree: SCA Student Conservation Association

<http://www.thesca.org/node/127873>

**Award: Excellence in STEM Advocacy in a Large Target Industry Cluster  
Company**

Program/Effort: Engagement in Florida's STEM Movement



Honoree: Lockheed Martin

<http://www.lockheedmartin.com/>

**Award: Best Sensory STEM Exhibits for Children**

Program/Effort: Five Senses Exhibits

Honoree: Explorations Museum

<http://explorationsv.com/>

**Award: Best STEM-enabled Lecture Series**

Program/Effort: IHMC Evening Lecture Series

Honoree: Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

<http://www.ihmc.us/about.php>

**Award: Excellence in STEM Integration in a Cross-Country Research Institute**

Program/Effort: Scripps K-12 Student and Teacher Programs

Honoree: Scripps Florida

<http://www.scripps.edu/florida/education/k12/>

**Award: Best Regional Collaborative Efforts Prioritizing STEM Across Regional Stakeholders in a Mature Regional Market**

Program/Effort: Central Florida Regional STEM Collaboration

Honoree(s): Central Florida Partnership; Central Florida STEM Education Council; and Workforce Central Florida

[www.centralfloridapartnership.org](http://www.centralfloridapartnership.org); <http://council.stemaid.ucf.edu/>;  
<http://www.workforcecentralflorida.com/employer/employer-services/targeted-industries.stml>



**Award: Excellence in STEM Integration in Public and Community Outreach and Across Undergraduate Programs**

Program/Effort: FIU STEM Educational Outreach

Honoree(s): FIU

<http://www.fiu.edu/>

**Award: Excellence Integrating STEM into Experiential Learning in a Magnet School**

Program/Effort: Bartow Elementary STEM Academy

Honoree(s): Bartow Elementary Academy, Polk County Schools

<http://www.bartowacademy.com/>

**Award: Excellence Integrating STEM into Education Afterschool Programming, K-12**

Program/Effort: Mad Science Afterschool Program

Honoree(s): Mad Science

<http://www.madscience.org/locations/southflorida/>

**Award: Excellence in STEM-enabled Empowerment for Young Women**

Program/Effort: Florida Girls GetIT

Honoree(s): Florida Girls Get IT

[http://girlsgetit.org/ggit\\_home.htm](http://girlsgetit.org/ggit_home.htm)

**Award: Excellence Integrating Emerging Needs of a STEM-enabled Industry into Engaging Academy Education**

Program/Effort: Gulf Power Academy

Honoree(s): Gulf Power and West Florida High School

<http://www.gulfpower.com/ecodev/academy.asp>;

<http://www.wfhs.net/>



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## **About STEMflorida, Inc.**

STEM is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. In states and regions around the globe, leaders have reached across jurisdictions and industries to forge alliances, making STEM a table-stake for jobs, capital, and innovation. Urgent calls to action around STEM for the sake of global competitiveness are not new. *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, a 2005 report requested from the National Academies by Congress described the workforce needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the nation's current gaps and opportunities in providing the STEM workforce. The need for improving STEM talent development has been highlighted by reports of the Business-Higher Education Forum in 2005 and 2007. STEM received special Congressional attention in the 2011 Congressional budget and the reauthorization plan.

STEMflorida launched in June of 2009, through a \$580,000 grant from Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI), jointly announced by WFI and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) for the creation of a statewide STEM council. The joint announcement followed foundational collaborative work with partners across the state, including the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Council of 100, Florida Chamber Foundation, and the Florida Department of Education. At the core of the STEMflorida initiative and movement, a simple intent has guided the effort: ensure leadership for Florida's STEM movement by connecting relevant education and talent development programs, philanthropic stewardship, economic and community development collaboratives and strategy around the demand-side need of Florida's current, emerging, and target STEM employers. On June 24 at its think tank ThinkSTEM in Orlando, STEMflorida, Inc. will launch as the not-for-profit missioned to ensure connectivity and demand-driven action around the priorities of Florida's STEM movement.