



For Immediate Release: February 2, 2009

Juneau Economic Development Council Announces

SeaPerch A Hands-on Underwater Engineering Curriculum - Professional Development

The U.S. Government recognizes the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education and supports programs to better prepare young people for careers in technical fields. Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) which promotes economic development through Technology Transfer and STEM education statewide through the Department of Defense funded SpringBoard program is pleased to announce the SeaPerch program. The SeaPerch program introduces pre-college students to the wonders of underwater robotics. SeaPerch is part of the Office of Naval Research's initiative, "Recruiting the Next Generation of Naval Architects," and is administered by the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. The SeaPerch program is funded by the Office of Naval Research and the Department of Defense.

Susan Giver Nelson, Director of Outreach and Strategic Development for the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, with the support of the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) and the Department of Defense, has funded teacher training this week in Anchorage and Juneau, training over 40 educators to implement SeaPerch. "After presenting the program to a group of educators in Alaska last summer, I felt there was a great deal of commitment and enthusiasm among the teachers and administrators, and am excited to see this first-ever training come to fruition," said Susan. Paul Fukuhara, Lead for the Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Challenge and SeaPerch community outreach programs for Naval Undersea Warfare Center, from the Operations Services Department in Keyport, WA will be in Alaska working with SeaPerch groups this week.

With a marine engineering theme the program teaches students how to build an underwater robot (called a SeaPerch), how to build a propulsion system, how to develop a controller, and how to investigate weight and buoyancy. Additionally, this project teaches basic skills in ship and submarine design and encourages students to explore naval architecture and marine and ocean engineering concepts independently. SeaPerch also provides students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, and mathematics while building the underwater ROV as part of a science and engineering curriculum. Throughout the project, students will learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

Schools sending teachers to the SeaPerch program include: South Anchorage High School, Romia Middle School, Gruening Middle School, Central Middle School of Science, Dimond High School, Steller Secondary School, Charter: Highland Tech High, Central Middle School of Science, East High School, Service High School, Lower Kuskokwim School District, Imaginarium, UAF Physics Dept, and West High School. In Juneau a pilot class is being being taught at Thunder Mountain High School by Clay Good. Prior to these upcoming events a SeaPerch program was used in a summer camp in the Pribilof Islands run by Michele Ridgeway as well as in a school in Anchorage, reaching about 300 students. The SeaPerch program will be conducted this week in Anchorage on February 2nd & 3rd, and in Juneau on February 5th-7th

This workshop and others throughout the State are possible through the US Department of Defense's funding of JEDC's SpringBoard program. To learn more about JEDC and SpringBoard, please visit our websites at www.jedc.org www.gospringboard.org

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