

## **News Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

#### **GLOBALFOUNDRIES Supports STEM Initiatives in Ballston Spa**

##### *Ballston Spa Students Participating in Spaceflight Experiment*

Ballston Spa is one of sixteen communities in the nation participating in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) launched by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education and NanoRacks LLC. The program is a national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education initiative that provides middle and high school classes the ability to propose experiments to fly on the Space Shuttle Endeavour on February 27, 2011. This on-orbit educational research opportunity is enabled through NanoRacks LLC, which is working in partnership with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.

Each of the district's six schools is currently working on strategies to engage students in this opportunity to be a part of this historic program. The district's STEM partners, including GLOBALFOUNDRIES, are providing the necessary support for participation in this program. John Delano, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at the University at Albany and Associate Director of the New York Center for Astrobiology, is a member of the collaboration and will provide guidance to students as they begin developing experiments. The Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST), a current partner for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade science curriculum initiative, has also become part of this collaboration.

GLOBALFOUNDRIES' Vice President and General Manager of Fab 8 Norm Armour said, "We are excited to be a part of this historic opportunity to promote STEM education in our community by engaging students, teachers, and community members in this high profile science competition. The Ballston Spa schools are leading the way in STEM learning and education in the region and this partnership will further solidify the district's leadership position." The FAB 8 project is currently under construction at the historic Luther Forest Technology Campus (LFTC). The Tech Campus was originally the home of the HERMES rocket engine program in the 1950's, and served as a testing ground for rocket fuels that ignited our country's space exploration efforts. "We're proud to call this community home and excited to be developing what will be the world's most advanced semiconductor wafer fab when it comes on line in late 2012. The spirit of innovation and exploration that helped propel our country into space is still alive in this region and we're honored to be a part of inspiring the next generation of scientists, technicians, engineers and mathematicians who will take us to new frontiers."

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Dragone of the Ballston Spa CSD stated that “We are thrilled to collaborate with GLOBALFOUNDRIES as we continue to develop our STEM programs and support student achievement in the 21st century.” He continued “The support of corporate and non-profit organizations of the school district is further evidence of our progress in meeting the needs of students in today’s technologically rich, collaborative environment and we appreciate their commitment to supporting district initiatives.”

Three experiments from Ballston Spa students will be selected by a local review team and submitted to the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) for review. A national review team will then select one of the three experiments to be included on the final flight of the Space Shuttle Endeavour on February 27, 2011.

Additional information about the program can be obtained by visiting <http://ssep.ncesse.org/> or contacting Diane Irwin, K-12 Science Coordinator, at [dirwin@bscsd.org](mailto:dirwin@bscsd.org), or 884-7150 ext. 2317.