

## **STEM 2010 EXPO Ready to Educate the Region**

**Over 1,000 Area Educators and Business Representatives Registered To Attend.....**

**BALLSTON SPA** - Over 1,000 educators and business leaders are expected at the Capital District's STEM 2010 EXPO, a first ever major regional conference focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning in Tech Valley. Focusing on regional workforce needs and professional development in K-12 STEM education, the event is being organized by several area school districts for educators and business professionals from throughout the region. With the new Hudson Valley Community College TEC-SMART facility in Malta, along with the arrival of GLOBALFOUNDRIES, the continued rapid growth at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, the President's visit and the other critical events occurring in Tech Valley, the timing is perfect for this major regional event to be held at Ballston Spa High School on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Joseph P. Dragone, Superintendent of Schools at Ballston Spa and Chairman of the STEM 2010 EXPO Steering Committee, indicated that "this day is truly unique, and the Steering Committee is proud to say that no other opportunity like this has ever occurred in our region. We are elated to be hosting this premier event at the Ballston Spa High School. The planning process has truly been a regional approach to building capacity in the STEM areas, and our planning team includes leaders from the Shenendehowa and Niskayuna school districts, as well as the WSWHE BOCES. The STEM 2010 EXPO will provide unique opportunities for attendees to participate in sessions alongside colleagues in education, business and industry from throughout the region."

Keynote speaker, Dr. Alain E. Kaloyeros, Senior Vice President and CEO of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, stated that "the STEM 2010 EXPO is both recognition of the importance of preparing students for exciting careers in our nanotechnology-driven economy, and a testament to the commitment and passion of the region's educators in embracing and enabling those opportunities. I applaud the organizers for their enthusiastic and proactive efforts in assembling this unique educational forum, which will help to support the critical education and training required to develop a world-class high tech workforce for the 21st century."

The STEM 2010 EXPO is being supported by many sponsors and is free to attend for all participants. An exhibition area will provide information and products from over 30 regional and national corporate, governmental, business organizations and educational partners. Dr. Andrew J. Matonak, President of Hudson Valley Community College, said "the charge of this community, state and nation is to teach, to train, to inspire and to lead our students into the future. It is critical that they are prepared for a new economy that promotes job growth, environmental sustainability and technological innovation."

In partnership with business and industry, government and higher education, this professional development opportunity will provide educators the opportunity to examine the importance of current STEM teaching practices, learning what works successfully in the classroom and examining workforce needs in the heart of Tech Valley. Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO of the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), stated that “science and technology education is essential for giving our youth the tools they need to create a world with greater energy independence and a stronger clean energy economy. Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders, and education in science and technology is critical to improving New York’s environment, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, and building a workforce prepared to address the challenges of the future.”

The morning program begins with a roundtable discussion moderated by F. Michael Tucker, President of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG). He indicated that “the STEM 2010 EXPO is a celebration of industry and educators partnering to make education relevant for kids. The CEG applauds the architects of STEM 2010 EXPO for having the foresight to convene regional high tech industry partners who really understand the importance of inspiring the innovators of tomorrow and brilliant educators who are sparking the imaginations of our young people in today's classrooms.” The roundtable panelists include leaders from IBM, the New York State Department of Labor, SuperPower, Inc., Hudson Valley Community College, Regeneron, Inc. and GLOBALFOUNDRIES. Norm Armour, Vice President and General Manager of GLOBALFOUNDRIES Fab8, in the Luther Forest Technology Campus in Malta noted that "this regional effort to promote STEM learning and workforce preparation is both timely and appreciated. When completed, Fab 8 is expected to be the most advanced semiconductor manufacturing facility in the world and will create more than 1,200 new jobs. We are excited to be working with partners in the region to make sure we have the resources needed to educate and train the qualified local workforce that will compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century technology-based economy.”

The program also includes over 60 workshops highlighting the work of more than 20 school districts and businesses. “IBM is excited to participate in this event to highlight the potential for improving our STEM skills in the nation through effective use of technology to engage students in new ways” stated Michael King, Vice President, IBM Global Education Industry. He continued “the students of today expect technology to be a pervasive part of their learning, and these approaches also offer the best potential for building the pipeline of STEM skills our communities and citizens will need to compete in the 21st century.”

For a copy of the STEM 2010 EXPO program, a complete list of sponsors and steering committee members, please visit the Ballston Spa Central School District website at [www.bscsd.org](http://www.bscsd.org).

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