

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamber of Southwest Florida Joins Partnership to Promote Science, Technology Engineering & Math in Southwest Florida Schools

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FORT MYERS (September 19, 2011): The Chamber of Southwest Florida announced today that it has joined the STEM Team of Southwest Florida in an effort to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in Southwest Florida's schools. Founded by community partners including the Florida Engineering Society Calusa Chapter K-12 Committee, the MIT Club of Southwest Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, Edison State College, The Imaginarium Science Center, Edison-Ford Winter Estates, Lee County Public Schools, and the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, the STEM Team of Southwest Florida is reaching out to local businesses and non-profit organizations to ask for their active support in promoting STEM education throughout the five-county region of Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.



Ed Moriarty of MIT Speaks at
STEM Team of SWFL Program

Through the efforts of these partners the program has gained national attention and support through organizations such as the Boston Museum of Science and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This has allowed the STEM Team of Southwest Florida to bring the Museum of Science, Boston's K-12 "Engineering is Elementary" Curriculum, designed by the National Center for Technological Literacy®, to schools in southwest Florida through a teacher training program hosted by the Imaginarium Science Center and Edison-Ford Winter Estates.

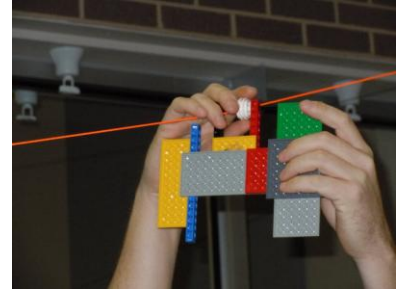
To learn more about this exciting opportunity please join us at our K-12 Forum Luncheon on September 28, 2011 at Crown Plaza at Bell Tower Shops, 13051 Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33907. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program will run from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. The chamber has confirmed that seats are available, as well as sponsorship opportunities. For more information please contact: David Miller at 239-275-2102 or chamberswf@gmail.com or visit the website: www.chamber-swflorida.com.

The luncheon will also feature Superintendents of Schools from Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Lee Counties. The panel will be moderated by David Plazas, News-Press Community Conversations Editor. David will also give the audience a preview of the News-Press Market Watch Education Summit on October 5th, a landmark regional Education Summit by invitation only that will assess Southwest Florida's educational prowess for the 21st century.

The Chamber of Southwest Florida's role in the partnership will be to enhance and maintain a database of local businesses that can provide volunteers and support to the STEM activities in classrooms throughout Southwest Florida. The Chamber will leverage their members' expertise

to build real-world experiences for students through field trips, shadowing, and intern opportunities at organizations that utilize STEM concepts every day in business.

“We have been amazed at the unbridled enthusiasm of the STEM Team members,” says Richard Lewis, Chair of the Chamber of Southwest Florida, “we look forward to assisting the partnership in building an integrated STEM education infrastructure that can bring the program to all students throughout Southwest Florida.”



Students attended a STEM Team of Southwest Florida event at Edison State College where they built electronic LED boards and raced LEGO cars down a zip line.

The Chamber of Southwest Florida

The Mission of the Chamber of Southwest Florida is to be a regional business organization that builds leadership as a strategic contribution to the community. We will be strong advocates of our members' interest before government and we will encourage the continuing development of regional infrastructure. We will deliver quality information, services, and value to our members that provide a positive contribution to their business. Contact the Chamber with any questions regarding our ongoing mission at chamberswf@gmail.com or 239-275-2102. Visit us on the web at www.chamber-swflorida.com.

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