For Immediate Release
Contact: Christina Garcia
713.443.4521
christinagarcia03@sbcglobal.net

NATIONAL CSTEM CHALLENGE KICK-OFF PREPARES STUDENTS FOR UPCOMING COMPETITION

CSTEM formally announces the kickoff of its annual National CSTEM Challenge on Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. hosted at the Prince George’s County Public Schools’ Howard B. Owens Science Center. The National CSTEM Challenge is designed to engage the three academic levels (elementary, middle, and high) of K-12 education, connecting feeder pattern schools through a project that allows them to work collaboratively on problem solving. The CSTEM Challenge integrates communication, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (CSTEM), with the disciplines of social studies and art surrounding the central theme: Everyone is an Artist and an Engineer.

The national competition is supported by Shell Oil Company and Schlumberger in addition to State Farm and the WellsFargo/Wachovia Foundation among others, to provide STEM materials and supplies to participating schools. Students set off to solve real world problems in areas of robotics, engineering, and ecology through a project that fuses scientific innovation with environmental stewardship. CSTEM Teacher and Support Services, founded by Dr. Reagan Flowers, welcomes the Bladensburg High, William Wirt Middle, and Port Towns Elementary School feeder pattern team as they join the ranks of over 70 schools competing in the national competition. The CSTEM feeder pattern model assists schools in developing a pipeline of highly motivated students, prepared for higher level learning, in related areas by building capacity and sustaining hands-on project-based learning.

This event officially kicks-off the 2010 National CSTEM Challenge, preparing students for the upcoming competition which will take place on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Over 1,000 students nationally will participate in the opening ceremonies, expert panel, CSTEM kit distribution, and feeder pattern team planning. It will be at the kick-off that the students will witness the unveiling of this year’s challenges.

For more information, contact Christina Garcia at 713.443.4521. To discover more about CSTEM, visit www.cstem.org.