JASON Learning

An Education Partnership from SEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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Titanic Discoverer Dr. Robert Ballard Speaks to New York's School Superintendents on STEM Education through Exploration

ALBANY, New York – The need for and the future of STEM education in this country will be the topic when famed oceanographer and educator Dr. Robert Ballard speaks to the New York State Council of School Superintendents at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 2, in the Keynote Kickoff for the The Council's 2014 Winter Institute and Lobby Day.

Dr. Ballard, who discovered the RMS Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean in 1985, is the creator of JASON Learning, an acclaimed exploration-based science program that is increasing student achievement and teacher efficacy everywhere it has been introduced.

"Children would write to me after the Titanic expedition to express their curiosity about science and exploration," Dr. Ballard says. "I saw it as a great opportunity to launch an education program where they could take an active role in their own missions of scientific discovery."

Three million K-12 students each year take part in JASON Learning curricula, which have been shown in several district-wide studies in Texas and Virginia to increase interest and achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The theme for both Dr. Ballard's speech to the assembled superintendents, as well as for JASON Learning, is Education through Exploration. Dr. Ballard will speak of JASON's inquiry-based model that connects students with real scientists and role models as they explore such topics as climate, geology, forces and motion, weather, ecology and energy.

JASON Learning and Dr. Ballard will be working with The Council to implement the JASON curricula throughout New York state in the coming year.

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The media is invited to attend Dr. Ballard's address to The Council at the Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge St., Albany, NY, 12207.

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JASON Learning is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by Sea Research Foundation, Inc., in partnership with the National Geographic Society. Named for the mythological Greek explorer, JASON is a nationally acclaimed, exploration-based program that links students — inside the classroom and out — to real science and scientists through technology intensive, inquiry-based curricular experiences. Learn more at jason.org.

The New York State Council of School Superintendents is a professional and advocacy organization with over a century of service to school superintendents and assistant superintendents in New York State. The Council provides more than 800 members with numerous professional development opportunities, publications and personal services while advocating for public education and the superintendency.