



## Press Release

### **SeaPerch Sinks Students into STEM**

SeaPerch program challenges middle and high school students with underwater robotics challenge

Bloomington, IN; March 5, 2011: Bloomington High School South hosted the Bloomington Regional SeaPerch Challenge on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. More than 200 High and Middle school students from 18 different schools throughout central Indiana brought their SeaPerch ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles) to the Bloomington South pool and competed in a series of underwater challenges for a chance to go to the State and National SeaPerch Tournaments.

**SeaPerch** takes academic competition and STEM education to new depths, literally. **SeaPerch is a hands-on educational tool and curriculum that gets kids excited about Science and Engineering.** In the SeaPerch competition, elementary, middle, and high school students build underwater robots from kits comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts. SeaPerch follows a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. SeaPerch is funded by the Office of Naval Research, and managed by the Society of Naval and Architectural Marine Engineers (SNAME).

In 2011, Indiana SeaPerch saw an increase in the number of competitors as well as a more rigorous and structured series of events. The challenges for 2011 include:

- **Sprint**—Middle school teams operate their SeaPerch to achieve minimum time along a distance under or on the surface of the water.
- **Obstacle Course**—Teams construct a SeaPerch designed to move through an underwater obstacle course as quickly as possible.
- **Salvage Race**—Multiple teams race their SeaPerch, head-to-head, to recover the greatest point value of submerged rings.
- **Amphibious Assault**—Each team's SeaPerch must be designed to maneuver on both land and in water.

Following the athletics model, Indiana SeaPerch has developed regional and state competitions to feed into the national competition. This year's regional challenges were held at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville and Bloomington High School South. Winners going on to state include high school teams from Bloomfield, Bloomington South, Eastern Greene, Forest Park, Owen Valley, Springs Valley, and West Central. The state competition will be held at Indiana State University on April 16. State winners are then offered the opportunity to compete in the National SeaPerch tournament at Drexel University in May.

Indiana SeaPerch is sponsored in part by Technology Service Corporation, The Radio Frequency Alliance, Peoples State Bank and the American Society of Naval Engineers.

Compared to 2010, Indiana SeaPerch team participation grew by 254% in 2011. If this rate can be supported and sustained in Indiana, 2012 will see approximately 356 teams participating. This growth model is demonstrating an increase in the number of SeaPerch participants in Indiana rural and urban areas.

Indiana SeaPerch continues to include all school districts while focusing on expanding and encouraging participation in the underserved rural and high poverty districts of the state. This project is well positioned to allow high engagement in STEM arenas for even our most challenged districts. With one project, Indiana SeaPerch allows educators to check off many of the learning outcomes they are required to teach and do it in a hands-on, exciting, and fun way.

A YouTube video of the SeaPerch Regional Challenges can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjYLkgcert0>

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