



News Release

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For Information: Don Kennedy, 410-436-7118

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ECBC Joins Discussion Panel at APG STEM Summit, Acts as Key Contributor to Local STEM Initiatives

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. — Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager Mary Doak from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) joined area education, government and industry leaders in the first of what is expected to be a series of summits on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education Feb. 11. The focus of the first meeting was to bring the community together and to create a momentum for the organization of coordinated STEM activities.

The event centered around four panels, where government, industry, higher education and K-12 education representatives discussed the successes, gaps and challenges of their current STEM initiatives.

Presenters reiterated the growing demand for STEM professionals in and around Aberdeen Proving Ground, reinforced by the completion of the base realignment and closure that is scheduled for September 2011. Therefore, the expansion of the community's STEM workforce pipeline is becoming a prerequisite for the economic development and progress in the region.

While briefing the scope of ECBC's efforts to further STEM education within and beyond Harford and Cecil counties, Doak emphasized the importance of a close relationship and the collaboration with local school administrators.

"In order to ensure the effectiveness of STEM outreach initiatives, I regularly convene with school administrators like Frank Cardo and Kathy Kunda from Cecil County as well as Frank Mezzanotte and Andrew Renzulli from Harford County," Doak said. "Their insight provides me the background and knowledge I need to help ignite students' excitement in STEM fields and to align events with curriculum requirements."

"Furthermore, we are looking to increase our support to local science and math K-12 educators with opportunities such as one-on-one mentoring sessions, summer camps and scientist-in-the-classroom enhancements," she added.

Kevin Walls, director of Bowhead, commended the STEM outreach engagements of government organizations and highlighted the value of the programs offered by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and ECBC.

In an effort to get as much value as possible out of the local community's collective educational outreach programs, Gary Martin, executive deputy to the commanding general of the Research, Development and Engineering Command, suggested to continue the dialogue and engagement across government, industry, academia and K-12 educators.

For more information about ECBC, please visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. Located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., ECBC is a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our web site at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/> or call (410) 436-7718.