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From: International Association for STEM Leaders

International Association for STEM Leaders makes debut in the nation's capitol and provides recognition to top STEM educators through awards.

On April 24 and 25, Millwood Virginia-based, International Association for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Leaders successfully launched its inaugural leadership event at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Nearly 100 STEM leaders from around the world joined IASL leadership. This invitation-only, annual STEM Leadership Summit, recognized several attendees for their leadership in STEM education through a formal awards ceremony. The awards were presented to programs, schools, school districts and individuals who exemplify STEM Excellence as defined by criteria developed by IASL.

Vista Teach, led by Sue Sorrentino, STEM Educator and Director, received the Corporate K-12 STEM Innovation Award. This organization is composed of an entire team of female, former engineers, who went on to earn teaching certifications, with joining forces, to bring real-world engineering principles and professional practices directly into their classrooms. While they provide engineering education across numerous grade levels and divisions, this team of teachers specifically advocates the urgency of providing comprehensive, authentic, and hands-on STEM Education beginning in the very early elementary grades. Throughout their years at **Allendale Columbia School in Rochester, NY** and, in collaboration with numerous and global, corporate and collegiate partners, the team continues to immerse young learners in real-world engineering. This, in turn, provides the ideal framework for developing the capacities of young people to become global leaders and innovators.

The International Association for STEM Leaders is globally recognized for creating a "golden standard" for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) excellence in traditional and non-traditional educational settings for all Pre-kindergarten through adult students. In collaboration with global STEM leaders, the IASL will provide guidance for implementing excellent STEM programming and develop a STEM framework that is industry-based and globally recognized. In the coming months, IASL will host regional events to continue its recognition of exceptional leadership, through awards and to focus its outreach activities around regional education and economic development issues.

The STEM Leadership Summit was held in conjunction with the world's largest STEM event, hosted by the USA Science and Engineering Festival. STEMconnector, the leading one-stop shop for STEM information participated as an initial sponsor and Edie Fraser, the founder, spoke to the IASL leaders and recognized them for their important work of impacting the lives of students every day through STEM

leadership and education. Other partners include Diversified Education Systems (DES), a leader in “turn key” laboratories including: casework, equipment, curriculum, training and support. DES is further a collaborator with Root Cause and Pitsco Education, two additional partners of IASL. On the online side of STEM, Learning Blade and Career ATG offer career and STEM awareness, exposure and training to students. Finally, Concept Schools, a charter school management company, also took part in the event as a sponsor.

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