



*A new force for STEM education*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan – Newton's Road, a regional organization committed to increasing access for K-12 students to learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, has joined forces in recent months with educational leadership, area manufacturers, and STEM professionals to celebrate and support excellence in STEM education.

"There is a rich legacy of technological innovation in the region," said Bill Myers, executive director of Newton's Road.

"Newton's Road seeks to build on that foundation and mobilize the significant and unique assets of the region to benefit STEM education - excellence in STEM education is vital to our individual and collective futures," he said.

By leveraging community partnerships and the unique natural resources of northwest lower Michigan, Newton's Road plans to move the importance of STEM education into the public spotlight this year. The organization plans to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of STEM educational excellence for our children, our region, and country
- Harness the expertise of retirees from STEM-focused careers
- Seek involvement from successful manufacturing and high-tech businesses working locally, and doing business globally
- Foster collaboration and partnerships between nonprofit organizations, schools, and STEM-focused businesses
- Provide mini-grants opportunities to STEM-related K-12 organizations, programs, and activities
- Award scholarships to teachers for STEM professional development and to local students pursuing STEM-related postsecondary technical training or degrees

-- more --

Newton's Road partnership-building focus extends far beyond the fields that first come to mind in technology and science, and includes energy, healthcare and agriculture workforce development as well.

**"Realizing that Traverse City was the birthplace of numerical control (today CNC), there isn't a better way to spotlight STEM innovation and the education that enables this end,"** said **Bill Janis, Chairman of Century, Incorporated.**

STEM education has been highlighted by legislators and business leaders statewide as one of the driving forces of economic development in northern Michigan, and the state as a whole.

"STEM and Grand Vision aspirations are aligned: fully implementing the The Grand Vision process requires a great number of innovative and bright young minds," said Kim Pontius, executive vice president of Traverse Area Association of Realtors and Grand Vision spokesperson.

"The skill sets gained through STEM education efforts in our region will be essential to the engineering, logistics, transportation solutions and systems, not to mention the biological and ecological challenges that will be faced as growth continues. These disciplines will essentially need to be interwoven into the very fabric of all of our regional development dreams," Pontius said.

Prior to obtaining 501(c) (3) status, Newton's Road worked behind the scenes to cohost the ABC telecast, *i.amFIRST Science is Rock and Roll*, at Milliken Auditorium and to support the FIRST Robotics Competition, the only regional FIRST Robotics Competition hosted by a high school statewide.

At the 2012 regional robotics competition in Traverse City, Newton's Road hosted a session during which various industry and community leaders visited to lend their ideas and energy to Newton's Road.

"STEM Education prepares students for college and technical careers which in turn supplies strong professionals to our industry," said Richard Raetz, P.E., **Global Remediation Technologies Inc. principal.**

"In the field of environmental engineering we develop treatment technologies for hazardous chemical transport through subsurface soil and groundwater aquifers. Our profession integrates the disciplines of environmental and chemical engineering, hydrogeology, microbiology and more," Raetz said.

For more information about Newton's Road, please contact Bill Myers at (231) 932-9478 [bill.myers@newtonroad.org](mailto:bill.myers@newtonroad.org). Visit the website at [www.newtonroad.org](http://www.newtonroad.org)

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At Newton's Road we believe the community has a critical role to play in efforts to connect the region's youth to robust learning experiences in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). By coordinating the enthusiasm and resources of educators, organizations, business leaders, parents and public officials, Newton's Road aims to develop a network of advocates focused on increasing access to inspired STEM-related programming for northwest lower Michigan youth. More access to STEM-related experiences for our local youth will lead to an increased awareness of college and career opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math – improving the outlook for regional economic resilience by positioning our area more competitively in the rapidly evolving global marketplace.

