



Janet.Greeno@joe.com
850-231-7402

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$13,000
FOR WEST DEFUNIAK ELEMENTARY SCIENCE PROGRAM**

WATERSOUND, Fla. (SEPTEMBER 29, 2014) -- The St Joe Community Foundation (Foundation) provided a large grant to the Emerald Coast Science Center, Fort Walton Beach, to continue Action Packed Science lessons to all K-5th Grade students attending West DeFuniak Elementary School in Walton County, Florida. This grant will continue the momentum that the students at West DeFuniak Elementary gained last year when they began using the Action Packed Science series, provided by Emerald Coast Science Center, in the 2013-2014 school year. The 5th grade student's science FCAT grades increased 19% in the 2013-2014 school year, a significant increase in overall scores in 1 year.

“The positive increase in the West DeFuniak Elementary student's science grades by using the Action Packed Science series is a shining example of student's being excited and engaged about learning” said Janet Greeno, Executive Director of the Foundation. “The Foundation is honored to be a partner in assisting educational efforts in Walton County Schools.” Tammy Cosson, an instructional curriculum teacher at West DeFuniak Elementary, was instrumental in writing and overseeing the grant for the school.

About The St. Joe Community Foundation

Since its inception, The St. Joe Community Foundation (STJCF) has provided more than \$18 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. STJCF provides charitable grants primarily in Bay and Walton Counties that embrace the arts, strengthen education, protect the environment and improve healthcare. These efforts help build healthy, caring, long-lived communities. For more information, visit www.stjcf.com.

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