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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$20,520  
TO ENHANCE SCIENCE PROGRAMS AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**WATERSOUND, Fla. (December 10, 2013)** -- The St Joe Community Foundation (Foundation) has provided a \$20,520 grant to the Emerald Coast Science Center enabling the Center to teach its “Science Learning in Action” program to students from kindergarten through fifth grades at Maude Saunders and West DeFuniak Elementary School. “Science Learning in Action” is a series of hands-on lessons that are designed to improve student performance and inspire interest in science by making science classes more interactive and fun.

“Nurturing students’ interest in science at an early age will help produce more graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, which is essential for the United States to continue to be competitive in the global economy,” said James W. LaFollette, Jr., executive director for the Emerald Coast Science Center.

“We are grateful to The St. Joe Community Foundation for providing this funding to help increase student’s interest and performance in STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to these students,” said Carlene Anderson, Superintendent of Walton County

Schools. “These two elementary schools were chosen as their students’ FCAT scores in science have been below the county and state average.”

A primary focus for the St. Joe Community Foundation is strengthening community educational programs. “The Foundation’s grant will help provide additional educational resources to two deserving elementary schools in our community,” said Janet Greeno, Executive Director for the Foundation. “We are delighted to be able to help provide a fun, yet effective way, to teach science to so many students from kindergarten through fifth grades.”

#### **About the Emerald Coast Science Center**

The Emerald Coast Science Center is a self-support private not for profit organization. Your support dollars go to a variety of museum causes, which help support the Center’s mission to provide the highest quality science education experiences for the community. For further information please contact Executive Director Jamie LaFollette at 750-664-1261 or [exec-dir@ecscience.org](mailto:exec-dir@ecscience.org).

#### **About the St. Joe Community Foundation**

Since its inception, the St. Joe Community Foundation (STJCF) has provided more than \$17 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. STJCF provides charitable grants toward the civic infrastructure of communities primarily in Bay and Walton Counties. The Foundation’s primary focus is on strengthening education, improving healthcare, protecting the environment and supporting local cultural interests. These efforts help build healthy, caring, long-lived communities. For more information, visit [www.stjcf.com](http://www.stjcf.com).

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