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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$25,000
TO THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTER
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA**

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (August 2013) -- The St Joe Community Foundation (Foundation) has provided a \$25,000 grant to The Academy of Science and Discovery, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-based preschool. This grant will allow the preschool to double in size, growing from serving 22 students to 54 students. This is the second grant the Foundation's has provided to the Academy; the first one, provided last year, funded the opening of the Academy.

The Academy brings STEM-based education to the youngest members of the community. Young children are natural scientists and at The Academy of Science and Discovery Center they are encouraged to explore their world to their fullest ability. The Academy's 13 acres of mostly natural, undeveloped land and one-quarter mile of wetland boardwalks serve as an ideal outdoor classroom. This amazing resource, combined with The Academy's cutting-edge facility and curriculum, make this preschool "the place" for aspiring young scientists to get started on their journey.

The generous grant was presented by Janet Greeno, the Foundation's Executive Assistant, at the Academy's Open House for existing and new preschool students and their families. This reception served as a wonderful stage to celebrate the future of The Academy of Science and Discovery Center of Northwest Florida. "I fully expect Panama City to become the technology hub of the Southeast," says Linda Macbeth, Executive Director for The Academy. "The continued support from the St Joe Community Foundation takes us to the next level so that we can more fully serve our growing tech community. The Academy is preparing our young children to lead Panama City to greatness, Thank you St Joe!"

"The St. Joe Community Foundation is pleased to provide this second grant to The Academy of Science and Discovery Center to ensure it can serve more students in our area," said Janet Greeno. "We're thrilled we've enabled The Academy to double in size."

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.

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