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Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boston High Schoolers Taking College-Level Science – and Scoring High!

Boston, MA. April 12, 2008 - - 320 Boston high school seniors will arrive at UMass, Boston on April 11th to take the AP practice exam to prepare for the rigorous AP science exams in mid May.

Their peers might be sleeping in or enjoying the warm weather. Not so for 320 AP students from across Boston. These devoted students will be taking an intensive science exam in order to prep for their college level science AP exam in May. Under test-conditions, these students will interpret problems, explain concepts and analyze data. After the students leave, their teachers and graduate students stay late to score and evaluate the students' work.

There is no time to waste. The results are back at the school on Monday morning. The students have only a month to hone their knowledge in order to score as high as possible. A high score can mean credit in college. A leg up in college can make all the difference to a young person hoping to enter the scientific professions or medical school.

Marilyn Decker, the Senior Program Director for Science in the Boston Public Schools explains the success: "The AP practice sessions and Saturday labs have been terrific for our kids. They love the chance to come to the university settings and continue their studies. And our numbers reflect their effort and the benefits of the partnership."

Saturday morning on a college campus is nothing new for these students. Eight times over the course of the year, they converge on one of three local university campuses. They get the benefits of quality laboratories for experiments, graduate student assistants and the camaraderie that can only come from waking up early to mix chemicals with your peers. BPS students can take AP courses in chemistry, physics, environmental science and biology.

The results are worth it:

- 618 students took AP science in 2007-08 (compared to 375 in 2006, and 183 in 2000, an increase of 336% in 7 years).
- 48% passed with a 3, 4, or 5 last year, the scores needed for college credit.
- 34 AP classes are currently offered by the BPS in chemistry, physics, environmental science and biology.
- 41% are offered at the city's 3 exam schools; 59% at district and Pilot schools.

One AP high school student gushed, “We feel like we are in college. It’s cool!”

Partner Information

BPS The Boston Public Schools serves 14,759 students in grades 6-8 and 18,305 students in grades 9-12. There are 442 full and part-time science teachers across the district.

BSP These accomplishments are the result of the Boston Science Partnership, a city-wide project bringing together the Boston Public Schools, UMass Boston, Northeastern University, Harvard Medical School, the community colleges and others to support high achievement in the district. The Partnership was founded in 2004 with a \$12.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The goals of the Partnership are to raise student achievement in the sciences; increase the number of students taking and succeeding in higher-level science courses, and to improve teaching in both the BPS and at the universities.

The College Board The AP exams are administered by the College Board. The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,400 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

For more information, contact

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