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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Chesapeake Bay Governor's School – Warsaw Teacher Bethany Smith
Selected to Explore the Ocean
with *Titanic* Discoverer Dr. Robert Ballard's Nautilus Exploration Program**

**20 Educators at Sea and 27 students will sail aboard E/V *Nautilus* and other research vessels
during 2013 expeditions in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Mediterranean Sea**

Warsaw, Virginia – Forty-seven educators and students from around the world have been selected from a competitive pool of applicants by the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) to participate at sea during their 2013 *Nautilus* Exploration Program. The selected educators and students hail from schools, universities, and science centers in twenty-one states and five countries. They will join the Nautilus Corps of Exploration during ocean expeditions from June through November in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Mediterranean Sea.

Bethany Smith from Chesapeake Bay Governor's School (CBGS) – Warsaw Campus has been selected as a 2013 Educator at Sea and will sail with the Nautilus Exploration Program during their 2013 expedition season. Bethany, who teaches Marine & Environmental Science at CBGS, will join the expedition in the Gulf of Mexico in mid-July.

“I am incredibly excited to join the Corps of Exploration this summer! Our oceans are some of the most unexplored places on our planet, and being able to join Dr. Robert Ballard and this incredible group of scientists, engineers, students and educators aboard E/V *Nautilus* is a once in a lifetime experience. Getting to share this experience with my students, the community, and the world is equally exciting,” said Smith.

The 2013 educator and student selectees will embark on several expeditions aboard Dr. Robert Ballard's ship of exploration, E/V *Nautilus*, and other research vessels off the coast of the United States and Puerto Rico, as well as Montserrat, Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, and Turkey. As members of the Corps of Exploration, educators and students will stand watch alongside scientists and engineers, as well as participate in live interactions with shore-based audiences via Exploration Now. When launched in June, Exploration Now will be a 24-hour online portal bringing expeditions from the field to future explorers on shore via telepresence technology.

“One of the major goals of our *Nautilus* Exploration Program is to inspire the next generation of explorers in STEM fields,” said Expedition Leader and OET Vice President, Dr. Katherine Croff Bell, “so we're very excited to provide educators and students with the direct experience of pure exploration, while allowing them the opportunity to share their experience far and wide with their peers.”

The Educator At Sea Science Communication Fellowship Program will be bringing out 16 new educators and 4 returning lead educators, including educators from Northern Ireland and Venezuela. Educator at Sea positions entail 2-4 week periods working aboard E/V *Nautilus* and other vessels as communicators of the expedition. An equally important aspect of the program is bringing the expedition back home to local student populations and communities after they have returned home. The Educator at Sea Program is sponsored in part by Bechtel.

The Science and Engineering Internship Program will be bringing out 15 interns, including students from Australia and Canada. The internship program aims to train undergraduate and graduate students studying ocean science, engineering and film in the at-sea environment. Intern positions entail 2-5 week periods working aboard E/V *Nautilus* and other vessels as Data Loggers, ROV Pilots, or Video Engineers.

The Honors Research Program (HRP) will be bringing out 12 students from across the United States. The HRP Program invites junior and senior high school students to participate in a seven-week summer research and exploration program. Students work with scientists at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) and are also invited to join our Corps of Exploration aboard *Nautilus* and other vessels.

About the *Nautilus* Exploration Program

The *Nautilus* Exploration Program was founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard. Our international exploration program centers on scientific exploration of the seafloor launched from aboard the Exploration Vessel *Nautilus*, a 64-meter research vessel currently based in the Caribbean Sea, and additional research vessels. In addition to conducting pure scientific research, the *Nautilus* Exploration Program offers telepresence to explorers on shore via live video, audio and data feeds from our ships. The Program also includes an education component that brings educators and students on ocean expeditions. The 2013 *Nautilus* Exploration Program sponsors are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bechtel, Sea Research Foundation, Office of Naval Research, National Geographic Society, University of Rhode Island, and additional private donors.

Photo Caption

CBGS teacher Bethany Smith stands beside the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Hercules. Smith, a 2013 Educator at Sea, will join Dr. Robert Ballard's Corps of Exploration aboard the E/V *Nautilus* this July in the Gulf of Mexico.

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