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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Farm grants Foundation \$7,600 for STEM initiatives

FORT MYERS, Fla. (January 5, 2012) – State Farm has granted \$7,600 to The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools in contribution to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education initiative. With this grant, high school students will have the opportunity to teach and mentor middle school and elementary school students in the STEM fields.

“Our State Farm mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams,” said Jose Soto, State Farm Public Affairs Specialist. “And to help make future dreams come true, we are excited to partner with The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools in support of their quality STEM education initiatives. Strong communities depend on educated students who can enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge to be successful in today’s high-tech, information-driven, global marketplace. And that success starts with learning.”

Students from the six academies in Lee County will develop kits to teach environmental, chemical, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering to middle school and elementary school students in the district. The idea being, those students will admire, respect, and learn from them, heightening their interest in pursuing these careers. This will also be beneficial for the high school students as it teaches independent innovation and allows them to explore greater depths of all the subjects by utilizing skills learned.

“We want our students prepared to compete in a global market. State Farm understands the importance of educating our students in fields that are in high demand. Without the support of businesses like State Farm, it would not be possible to support our students like they need to be supported,” says Marshall Bower, president & CEO of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools.

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About The Foundation: The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. is a private, 501(c) 3 organization. Its mission is to enhance and enrich the quality of public education in Lee County for students and educators through programs, resources and experiences made possible through corporate, individual and educational partnerships. Visit www.leeschoolfoundation.org for more information.

For more information on the Foundation or for an interview with Marshall Bower, please contact Janelle Beaber, director of marketing and development, at janelle@leeschoolfoundation.org or call 239-337-0433.

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