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## **Media Advisory For Immediate Distribution**

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### **Chancellor Fingerhut to Celebrate Successful Summer STEM Internship Program with Area Students**

The Metropolitan Cleveland Consortium for STEM (Cleveland Hub) will host a reception for invited guests Thursday September 2, from 1:30-3:30 at the Fenn Tower Ballroom at Cleveland State University to celebrate the success of its summer internship program for Cleveland area STEM school students from The Design Lab Early College High School and MC<sup>2</sup>STEM High School. Both schools are public high schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The internship program funding comes from a state STEM grant of nearly \$1,000,000 awarded to the Cleveland STEM Hub this spring to support STEM education in greater Cleveland. In collaboration with area partners, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), and Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE), internship placements were found for 100 students.

Chancellor Fingerhut will make the keynote address and offer his congratulations to the students and employers in attendance.

"Over 25 area companies have provided summer work experiences for students as varied as website developers, systems analysts, marketing reps and even video game designers" according to the Cleveland STEM Hub executive director Ms. Sonya Pryor-Jones.

\*The Cleveland STEM student community had a 0% unemployment rate this summer-- all of the students expressing an interest in the program were placed in positions suited to their interests. "The STEM activities in Cleveland and throughout the state of Ohio, through the work of the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN), have at their core a mission to educate and prepare the students of today for the new and emerging workforce needs of tomorrow and the internships have been an excellent opportunity to do just that" Ms. Pryor-Jones continued.

Executive Director of NOCHE, Ms. Ann Womer Benjamin added, "The success of the STEM program shows what collaboration can do for our region. Three different organizations, each with a unique mission, came together and provided 100 students with training that will help them in the classroom and in the workforce. These talented students now have firsthand experience to further motivate them to pursue STEM careers, which will provide them with profitable professional opportunities and the region with skilled new talent."



In the program, students worked a total of 120 hours over the course of the program's 8 weeks (July 6-August 27, 2010) and were paid \$8.00 per hour. Logistics and student training was handled by Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), which has been managing youth workforce development for over 25 years. The program included orientation and training for students in their first professional workplace experience as well as employer training providing effective tools for working with a younger workforce. Additionally, PNC Bank provided financial literacy training to students to assist them as they opened and managed a bank account, and arranged direct deposit of their paychecks. Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE) provided additional programming support and identified new and emerging businesses from their NEOintern.net program.

**About The Metropolitan Cleveland Consortium for STEM (Cleveland Hub)** The Hub was formed in 2008 to assist with the launch of schools in the region focused on the disciplines of Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics, and to help scale and replicate innovation in STEM education for the region. Over 55 local partners from philanthropies, educational institutions, business and industry as well as The Ohio STEM Learning Network (managed by Battelle) make up the Cleveland Hub. Since its founding the Metropolitan Cleveland Consortium for STEM has assisted with and facilitated securing the contribution of millions of dollars of private and public funds to support STEM education in our community as well as organizing and directing the contribution of hundreds of volunteer hours in the design and development of the STEM Schools. For more information about our work, visit us online at [www.mc2stemhub.org](http://www.mc2stemhub.org).

**About NOCHE** The Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE) has promoted the region's colleges and universities and the talent they produce for more than half a century. Its driving mission is to mobilize the region's higher education and business communities for collaborative action to advance the region's growth and development. NOCHE's membership consists of public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities in a sixteen-county region in Northeast Ohio. The Board consists of the presidents of these institutions and a comparable number of business leaders from across the region. For more information visit NOCHE at [www.noche.org](http://www.noche.org).

**About Y.O.U.** Founded in 1982, Y.O.U. provides youth workforce development throughout Cuyahoga County serving teens in poverty and therefore at risk, both in-school and out-of-school youth. Y.O.U. helps youth escape poverty in the most direct way possible: through education and a career mentoring youth so they stay in high school and earn a diploma and provide additional guidance to help them through the process of applying to college and obtaining the financial aid they need to attend. Y.O.U. recruits employers willing to interview and hire pre-screened youth for entry-level jobs especially in careers of the future, and to provide other workforce and career-related experiences including job shadowing, mock interviews and internships in career fields of the future. For more information visit us at [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org)

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