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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECISD students have opportunity to make global contribution in stem cell research by high school graduation

ECISD in collaboration with Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, are providing students with the opportunity to participate in a new initiative called, Project STEM Cell. A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Education project that enables real world research applications. Thousands of people benefit from stem cell research as new treatments are sought to alleviate suffering from diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's disease, heart failure and spinal cord injuries. Stem cells may have organ-specific cells with special functions that regularly divide to repair and replace worn out or damaged tissues. Student researchers can contribute to research about stem cell growth, differentiation and communication as well as bioengineering. Any scientifically significant contribution to the research will be credited and acknowledged in future research journal publications.

Throughout the project, students will learn tissue staining techniques, utilizing software for image analysis and data calculations. Project STEM Cell will give students unparalleled access to Tulane University researchers and benefit from real medical research as they learn medical terminology, current lab techniques and data analysis applied by universities and research institutions.

This month, four CTE teachers, an Odessa High School Campus Curriculum Facilitator and two administrators attended a training at Tulane University to learn about cell biology, microscopy and bioengineering. CTE health science teachers, Holley Davilla, Shonda Owen, Christina Portillo and Tenille Aranda plan to embed what they learned from their training into the classroom.

The ECISD Innovation Department, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department will hold an informational session displaying images, software and video for CTE students interested in participating in Project STEM Cell. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 24 from 2:50 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the cafeteria lecture hall at New Tech Odessa (300 E. 29th). All four CTE teachers as well as science coordinator, Ashley Osborne and Chief Innovation Officer, Jason Osborne, will be available for interviews about this new and exciting research collaboration.

Project STEM Cell is a new PICK Education research collaboration. PICK Education is a program created by the ECISD Innovation Department, which serves to bring real-world experiences into the classroom, make learning tangible, and promote student ownership in their education.

For more information about this press release, contact ECISD Communications at 432-456-9019.