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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Northeastern Maryland Technology Council (NMTC) Named Visionary Award Winners for 2015

### *Sixteen Marylanders honored at February 26 Ceremony*

Aberdeen, MD — A select group of Marylanders received the prestigious Visionary Award on February 26, for their contributions to the advancement of STEM education and technology. The ceremony held at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood, MD, was attended by more than 220 leaders in industry, government, and education. A special video and tribute from TV's, *The Discovery Channel* was presented to the honorees.

"We honored remarkable people who continue to play key roles in moving our region forward in the areas of education and technology," said NMTC Board Chair, Michael Parker. "These are individuals who selflessly donate their time and talents to make a difference in their community."

The 2015 Visionary Award winners are:

- **Visionary: C. Warren Mullins**, Former Vice President, Battelle Eastern Science & Technology Center, Aberdeen, MD. As a visionary for Maryland Warren Mullins is seen as one who has encouraged forward thinking in this region. Early in his career with Battelle, Mullins recognized the growing need for a skilled STEM work force to support the growth of federal and commercial jobs. Then Chairperson of the NMTC, he guided the council, and in turn our region, to assume a leadership role in promoting STEM Education.
- **Leader: Erica Fineman-Bertoli**, Team Lead, Communications - Electronic, Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Fineman-Bertoli and her team created the STEM Superstar program, filling a key gap in increasing awareness and inspiring students, elementary school through to University, to embrace STEM.
- **Leader: Marco Ciavolino**, Executive Director, Techbrick Robotics, President, enktesis, LLC, Forest Hill, MD. It all started in 2003 when Ciavolino's daughter was given a LEGO RCX Robotics system and she mastered it within a week. Fast forwarding 10 years, Ciavolino's leadership, and perseverance has made TechBrick a FIRST Robotics Competition team.
- **Leader: Louie Lopez**, Chief of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Education Outreach, Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Lopez has advocated for, and the ARMY followed, to provide fully funded STEM programs in to guide the community in building our shared, STEM workforce.
- **Innovator: Andy Borzok**, Science Teacher, Bohemia Manor High School, Cecil County, MD. As a science teacher at Bohemia Manor High School, Borzok was actively involved in Cecil County's STEM program since its inception and wrote the curriculum for and developed and taught the inaugural AP Physics and Robotics courses in the county.
- **Innovator: Kimberly Nikitas**, Principal Research Scientist, Battelle Eastern Science & Technology Center, Aberdeen, MD. She developed the STEM Women's Forum, garnered



presenters and sponsors, managed the project, acted as one of the onsite mentors, and hosted the event. She did it all.

- **Innovator: Joseph A. Domanico**, Smoke and Pyrotechnics expert, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. His "What Color is Exothermicity", bring gasps of amazement and looks of wide-eyed wonder from students. His innovative programs as this won ECBC's coveted Shining Star Award several years in a row.
- **Mentor: Bruce P. Burns, Ph.D.**, President, of the Senior Science Society Foundation, Inc., Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD. Dr. Burns co-founded, served as president of the Senior Science Society, a cadre, of highly experienced scientists working tirelessly to educate students, prepare educators, and elevate the awareness of technologies in everyday life.
- **Mentor: Susan Cody Ciavolino**, STEM Education Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County MD. Ciavolino leads an enthusiastic team of high school interns, college students, BGC staff, Club parents, and STEM professionals to inspire Club kids to consider STEM for their "Great Futures."
- **Mentor: Deidre DeRoia Ph.D.**, Environmental Protection Specialist, Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Dr. DeRoia has served as one of the wildlife instructors for the Harford County Envirothon, a yearlong student learning experience in aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue.
- **Mentor: John McDonough, Ph.D.**, Research Psychologist, Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. At the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School (since first class in 2008) he mentors multiple students in their Capstone projects. He is among the first to bring summer college students into his lab.
- **Rising Star: Katie McHenry**, Project Manager, Ameritox, Ltd, Baltimore, MD. McHenry's leadership as Youth's Benefit Elementary School Family STEM Night Co-Chair, these Family STEM Nights have grown to be multifaceted, engaging and fun events where kids, teachers and families have fun with interactive and innovative STEM activities.
- **Rising Star: Breanne Sutton**, Performance Analyst at Alliant Techsystems, Inc. (ATK), Elkton, MD. She hosts "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" (IGED) with AIAA at ATK, the newly created ATK's Girl Scout Rocket Fun Day, and participates in just about all STEM programs in the county.
- **Technology Advancement: Rick Moore**, Chief of the Rapid Technologies and Inspection Branch, **Bradley Ruprecht**, Engineering Technician/Model Maker and **Lester Hitch**, Engineering Technician, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Prototype Integration Facility (PIF), also known as Advanced Design & Manufacturing (ADM), Aberdeen Proving Ground. This team has evolved into one of the most comprehensive and recognized facilities teams of its kind within the DOD, if not the world. They command over \$4 million worth of high end rapid technologies and 'additive manufacturing' state of the art equipment.

"We are grateful to these individuals for helping our region grow to the next level. Northern Maryland has changed and our economic infrastructure is increasingly focused on research and technology development," said John Casner, executive director of NMTC. "These are the individuals who are building the foundation for the future of our region."

NMTC is Maryland's fast growing technology council, connecting collaborative leaders in over 200 industry and technology companies in building a STEM educated workforce and advancing technology growth to better the economic growth of our region and protect our national security.