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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twelve Educators Selected to Explore the Ocean with Titanic Discoverer Dr. Robert Ballard’s Nautilus Exploration Program

Educators at Sea to attend special workshop and work aboard E/V Nautilus during its 2012 expedition season of the coasts of Turkey and Cyprus

Mystic, CONN – Twelve educators from across the United States have been selected from a competitive pool of applicants by the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) to participate in the 2012 Nautilus Exploration Program. The selected Educators at Sea hail from schools and museums in seven states and represent ten school districts.

The 2012 Educators at Sea will embark in July and August on Dr. Robert Ballard’s ship of exploration, E/V Nautilus, as his team explores the geology, biology, archaeology and chemistry of the Black Sea and Mediterranean. As members of the Corps of Exploration aboard Nautilus, educators will stand watch alongside scientists and participate in live interactions with shore-based audiences on www.nautiluslive.org and at the Nautilus Live Theater at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut. The Educator at Sea Program is sponsored in part by Bechtel.

Prior to going to sea, educators will also participate in an intensive training workshop and attend sessions hosted by scientists, engineers and science communicators from June 25-28 at the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography, where Dr. Ballard is professor of oceanography. Ballard is best known for his discovery of RMS Titanic.

“We’re very excited to provide educators with a direct experience of pure exploration,” said Expedition Leader and OET Vice President, Dr. Katherine Croff Bell, “While our Nautilus Live website provides real-time video of our expedition to teachers and students all over the world, we also have the unique opportunity to invite our Educators at Sea on board Nautilus as fully integrated members of our Corps of Exploration.”

The 2012 Nautilus Exploration Program Educators at Sea are:

Cory Culbertson, Engineering & Technology Teacher
University High School & Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Sam Garson, Science Department Chair
Mount Rainier High School, Des Moines, WA
Susie Hill, Education Specialist & Programs Manager
Nauticus Museum, Norfolk, VA

Steven Hosking, Director of Technology
The Williams School, New London, CT

Bonnie Keller, Science Teacher
Lanier Middle School, Fairfax, VA

Eric Lewis, Teacher on Special Assignment & High School Support
San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, CA

Juan Pinto, Technology & Spanish Teacher
Energized for STEM Academy, MS West, Houston, TX

Jason Pittman, Science Focus Teacher
Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus School, Alexandria, VA

Tom Rodgers, Science Teacher & Science Department Chair
Cape Henry Collegiate School, Virginia Beach, VA

Noelle Turner, Science Teacher
Bearden High School, Knoxville, TN

Krystal Waltman, Science Teacher
Southwest High School, Houston, TX

Alternate: Sharon Harder, Science Teacher
Whittle Springs Middle School, Knoxville, TN

**About the Nautilus Exploration Program**

The *Nautilus* Exploration Program was founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard and is a joint ocean exploration initiative of the Ocean Exploration Trust, the Institute for Exploration and the URI Center for Ocean Exploration. This international program centers on scientific exploration of the seafloor launched from aboard the Exploration Vessel *Nautilus*, a 64-meter research vessel currently based in Istanbul, Turkey. In addition to conducting pure scientific research, the *Nautilus* Exploration Program offers ocean telepresence to explorers on shore via live video, audio and data feeds from the ship. The Program also includes an education component that brings educators and students on E/V *Nautilus* expeditions. The 2012 *Nautilus* Exploration Program is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ocean Exploration Trust, Sea Research Foundation, Office of Naval Research, National Geographic Society, University of Rhode Island, and additional private donors.

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