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Contacts:

Brandi Stewart-Wood, Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, 360-567-3170

Anthony Chavez, Weyerhaeuser Company, 253-924-7148

Susan Groth, Lower Columbia College, 360-442-2110

Lisa Anderson, SEMI Foundation, 408-482-5235

Weyerhaeuser, LCC and SWWDC Partner With SEMI Foundation to Educate Cowlitz County High School Students on the Importance of Math and Science in the Workplace

LONGVIEW, Wash., May 4, 2010 — For three fun, information-packed, activity-filled days, 40 students from seven Cowlitz and Columbia County high schools will be introduced to high tech concepts and exciting career possibilities as they attend SEMI High Tech U at the Weyerhaeuser facility and Lower Columbia College (LCC) in Longview. The program, which includes a tour of the Weyerhaeuser facility and a hands-on class in papermaking, takes place May 4-6. The initiative is part of the region's larger workforce development strategy to engage more youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and careers.

SEMI High Tech U is an industry-driven math- and science-based career exploration program produced and presented by the non-profit SEMI Foundation in partnership with co-sponsors Weyerhaeuser Company and the Weyerhaeuser Foundation, North Pacific Paper Corporation (NORPAC), the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), and Lower Columbia College, the program's higher-learning partner. The program is also funded in part with funds from a Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant administered by WorkSystems, Inc.

In addition to hands-on experiments that introduce electronics and semiconductor-manufacturing concepts and explain microchip logic, students will learn about automated process control, try their hand at making paper, and tour Weyerhaeuser's Longview facility. High Tech U also features sessions on educational pathways and career planning.

Turning career uncertainty into career confidence. According to Dale Lemmons, SWWDC Board Chair and President of Interstate Wood Products, the economic downturn and high unemployment rates are creating uncertainty about how individuals should plan their careers. "In Cowlitz County, the economic base is in the forest products industry," he says. "Although the industry has not been without its challenges, the industry is evolving and will continue to remain a foundation of our economy in southwestern Washington. High Tech U is one way to engage youth, expose them to careers they may have never imagined, and give them the confidence to prepare themselves scholastically for rewarding careers."

Forestry products industry careers evolving. Although often described as a "mature industry," the forestry products industry continues to evolve with the times and is constantly looking for ways to improve its processes and broaden its horizons, says Brian MacDonald, Region Human Resources Manager for Weyerhaeuser. And like most industries, technology is playing a larger role in the industry's day-to-day business operations. "It is more important than ever that individuals interested in working in our industry have a math and science background," [MacDonald says, noting that the forest products industry offers a wide array of jobs from forestry to engineering that require complex and diverse backgrounds of its employees. "That is why programs like High Tech U are so important. Individuals with strong math and science backgrounds will be able to

secure well paying, challenging jobs in the forest products industry. The forest products industry will be looking for the next generation to lead the industry in the 21st century in its traditional fields such as pulp and paper and forest products, but also in new green ventures such as bio energy and bio fuels.”

LCC courses prepare students for rewarding careers. “Lower Columbia College’s newly-designed Process Manufacturing program is a good example of the way we work closely with industry to insure our students learn the skills for today’s jobs, especially current technology,” said Jim McLaughlin, LCC president. “LCC has ranked in the top five percent of community colleges nationally for student success in preparing for and completing college-level math. We host a regional Science Olympiad and offer several free workshops on campus each year to generate interest in science among high school students.”

About Our Partners

Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. Led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies, the SWWDC responds to the unique needs of SW Washington. For more information, visit www.SWWDC.org.

Weyerhaeuser Company, one of the world’s largest forest products companies, was incorporated in 1900. In 2009, sales were \$5.5 billion. It has offices or operations in 10 countries, with customers worldwide. Weyerhaeuser is principally engaged in the growing and harvesting of timber; the manufacture, distribution and sale of forest products; and real estate construction and development. Additional information about Weyerhaeuser’s businesses, products and practices is available at <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com>.

North Pacific Paper Corporation (NORPAC), is a joint venture between Weyerhaeuser and Nippon Paper Industries that makes high-quality newsprint and high-brightness publication papers used in the United States and Japan.

Lower Columbia College Lower Columbia College is a public two-year community college, founded in 1934, that serves nearly 5,000 students each quarter, most from Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties, Washington. LCC provides lower division coursework for transfer students, professional-technical training to prepare for direct entry into the workforce, basic skills instruction and continuing education for professional development and personal enrichment.

The SEMI Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization founded in 2001 to support education and career awareness in the fields of high technology through scholarships and the career exploration programs SEMI High Tech U for high school students, and SEMI High Tech U Teacher Edition. Since 2001, over 100 programs have been delivered to more than 2600 students and 500 teachers in the US, Austria, France, Japan The Netherlands and Singapore.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: The best visual/interview opportunities for SEMI High Tech U are as follows:

Tuesday, May 4 – NORPAC, 3001 Industrial Way, Longview

- **11 am- 1:00 pm — VIP Welcome Session:** Students will be greeted by executives from NORPAC, Lower Columbia College, SEMI Foundation, High Tech U staff, participating students, and community leaders.

- **11:25 am-12:30 pm — Hacky Sack Catapult:** The air is filled with hacky sacks as students learn how medieval technology relates to modern day chip making in a math and statistics exercise called “Statapult”.

- **3:30-5:00 pm — Human Calculator:** Using a “feet on” exercise, as in the game “Twister,” students try not to get tangled up as they simulate electron microprocessor flow.

Wednesday, May 5 — Lower Columbia College, 1600 Maple Street, Longview

- **11:45 am-4:40 pm — Automated Process Control:** Students watch demonstrations of automated process controls used in current manufacturing processes and then try their hand at making paper.

Thursday, May 6 — Liquid Packaging, 3401 Industrial Way, Longview

- **9:40-10:40 am — Bio Fuels:** Students learn about another green element of the forest products industry

- **10:40 am-12:10 pm — Liquid Packaging Facility Tour**

- **2-3 pm — Mock Job Interviews:** Students learn how to interview for a job and then practice their skills in a one-on-one mock job interview.

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