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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **TEACHING INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN STEM TO DEVELOP EARLY CHILDHOOD FAB LABS IN HEAD START PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE U.S.**

April 21, 2016 – CLEVELAND. Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES), a leader in developing Digital Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum and school design, has been named a partner in the Federal government’s new Early Education STEM initiative.

TIES is among a group of leaders who are participating in the Early Learning Symposium today hosted by The White House, in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services and Invest in US. The event is highlighting the importance of promoting active STEM learning for our youngest children and to celebrate a broad range of public- and private-sector leaders committed to promoting STEM learning across the country.

TIES is the first organization to deliberately build a Fab Lab – a maker space that uses digital design and fabrication to build STEM skills and creativity – for early childhood. In March 2016, The Bay Area Discovery Museum, in partnership with TIES and FableVision, launched the world’s first Fab Lab for young learners (ages 3 to 10) to help them navigate the design process from concept to production, and turn their ideas into reality.

Building on this work, TIES has made a commitment to bring early childhood Fab Labs to schools, daycares, museums and other settings serving the country’s youngest learners. As part of this initiative, TIES, in partnership with The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) at Virginia Tech, will prototype these labs in two Head Start programs with the intent to build a scalable model that will enable all Head Starts throughout the country to have early childhood Fab Labs.

“As we build STEM programs in K through 12 schools, it’s critical that we look at the continuum of learning.” said Jan Morrison, TIES president and CEO. “Research shows that preschool-aged children are predisposed to developing inquiry skills, reasoning and early traits of problem solving during their day-to-day curiosity and interaction with objects.”

Early childhood Fab Labs offer a creative, safe and supportive spaces that provide children with tools and mentoring that promotes a mindset to shape and tinker in order to change the world around them.

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### About TIES

Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES) creates and builds STEM programs globally, utilizing design teams of subject matter and task specific experts who work with schools, institutes of higher education and businesses to improve STEM literacy and relevance to workforce needs and 21st century skills. We are the country's foremost innovator in STEM school design, curriculum development and instructional support. TIES also works with regional and state economic development organizations to fuel STEM education curriculum and instructional program creation for the benefit of all.

### STEM Development for Low Achieving Schools

TIES is the only provider in the U.S. of STEM programs specifically designed to turn around low achieving schools. Our team of national innovative design experts use proven network systems and processes that can be replicated, modified and sustained in any school district regardless of geographic location or student demographics.

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