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Superintendent of Schools

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STEM Grant Awarded to Sugarloaf School

Sugarloaf School has been awarded a \$10,000 STEM grant along with our business partner match which will allow the school to receive \$20,000 of Robotics and Hydraulics and STEM professional development for teachers. Sugarloaf will become the third school in the state of Florida to become a Youth Touch referral site. Principal Russell states, "It is very exciting for Sugarloaf School to have been awarded this grant to help build and develop a state of the art STEM program for our students."

"Goldenrod Research Corporation is committed to assisting and encouraging the integration of machine technology into the elementary educational process," said Goldenrod president Lea Melchior. "In response to this commitment, we have provided funding to a select group of worthy schools in order to assist with the purchase of a complete technology integration package. The awardees provide a valuable service to our company by sharing their know-how with other schools and with us. We've received an overwhelming response to this program from schools across the US and Canada, and we consider it a privilege to work with such dedicated and quality educators as you have at Sugarloaf. We have much confidence this school will be a model site."

Sugarloaf School was chosen based on the strength of the written application which expressed desire to bring advanced technology to classrooms and which demonstrated the capability to implement and manage innovative programs that improve the quality of education for students.

The Youth Touch Technology Integration System is designed to help children understand ratios, coordinates, graphing, algebraic reasoning, and over 100 other math, science, language arts, and social studies concepts. It enhances the teacher's ability to present cross-disciplinary lessons. The focus of Youth Touch is not technology but guiding children to become sophisticated and critical thinkers through integrated STEM learning (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). The system uses hands-on technology as a powerful tool to engage students in the learning process physically and emotionally.

"The awarding of this grant will provide the students at Sugarloaf School with an outstanding hands-on STEM experience. This initiative aligns perfectly with our increased emphasis on STEM learning and I am extremely proud of the Sugarloaf team for seeking and obtaining the funds necessary to provide this opportunity" stated Superintendent Mark Porter.