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News Release

For Immediate Release

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VSBA Partners with JASON Learning to Enhance K-12 STEM Education in Virginia

December 17, 2015 – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) has identified JASON Learning as a strategic partner to provide effective and affordable science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curricula to Virginia's 1.3 million public school students.

Founded 25 years ago by the discoverer of the RMS Titanic, famed oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard, JASON Learning is a non-profit organization that connects students to real science and exploration to inspire them to study and pursue STEM-related careers. JASON Learning links Virginia Standards of Learning aligned STEM curricula with real-life research and exploration and is shown to motivate students to excel in these challenging subjects.

“JASON Learning is showing remarkable results in engaging and educating children in subjects needed for the future,” said Dr. Eleanor Smalley, president and CEO of JASON Learning, “Virginia’s students bring with them a rich mixture of cultural and economic diversity, family backgrounds, and urban and rural environments. We look forward to inspiring their interest and achievement in STEM, and hopefully look to these subjects as springboards to a potential career.”

Three million K-12 students across the nation take part in JASON Learning each year, which has been shown in several district-wide studies to increase interest and achievement in STEM subjects.

“The Virginia School Boards Association is proud to enter into a partnership with JASON Learning,” said Gina Patterson, VSBA executive director, “Highly effective STEM instruction is vital as our public schools prepare Virginia’s students to be college and career ready, and we believe JASON Learning can support these efforts.”

Each comprehensive JASON Learning program includes print and digital materials, hands-on activities, videos and online games for students, as well as lesson plans, implementation tips, professional development and a powerful digital platform for educators. Live, interactive events throughout the year connect JASON participants with inspirational STEM role models, including renowned scientists and other experts in STEM fields. JASON Learning is available at the classroom, school, and division basis for a per student fee.

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VSBA

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2-2-2/VSBA Partners with JASON Learning

About JASON Learning

JASON Learning is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1989 by ocean explorer Dr. Robert D. Ballard. JASON's mission is to transform K-12 STEM teaching and learning by connecting students and teachers with real science, real role models, and real exploration through world-class curriculum, teacher training, online tools, and field programs. Learn more at www.jason.org.

About the Virginia School Boards Association

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through leadership, advocacy, and support. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth's educational leaders. Learn more at www.vsba.org.

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