The Urban Ecology Institute, Inc.

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## *2010 Field Studies Expo Highlights STEM Opportunities*

*Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts – January 23, 2010* – The Urban Ecology Institute convened the first annual Environmental Science and Field Studies Expo, showcasing careers and opportunities in science and technology for high school students from around the Greater Boston Area. A result of the ongoing collaboration between Boston College Lynch School of Education, College Bound, and the Boston Public School System, the Expo was designed to promote student interest in STEM fields, expose them to college and career possibilities and trajectories, and emphasize the importance and transferability of STEM skills in education and the work environment.

The event featured two keynote presenters, Thomas Kowalczyk from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Stephen M. King, the President and CEO of Multi-Cultural Engineering Education Systems, addressing the need for STEM skills in the workforce and the future of STEM careers. The keynote was followed by two morning sessions focused on the application of STEM skills and field studies research. Poster presentations, given by students and professors from area universities, introduced cutting edge research in the fields of environmental science, ecological field studies, and green chemistry. Professionals from the Greater Boston Area were on-hand for career dialogues in professions as diverse as Geographic Information Systems, Aquatic Ecology, Natural History, and Math Education. Students were provided the opportunity to ask questions not only about science, but also about specific colleges and career paths.

In the afternoon, students attended their choice of two workshop sessions focused on community activism, social justice, scientific enrichment, the transferability of STEM skills to other professions, high school to college bridge programs, and using media as an educational tool.

To learn more about the organization and its offerings, please visit www.urbaneco.org.

Contact:
Media Relations
617-552-0592
Email: info@urbaneco.org

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