Dear SBAS Officers,

I'm inviting you and your colleagues to explore Sci-Port's new program on informal science communication. Please pass it on!

Are you a scientist, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) professional or STEM enthusiast looking to share your research and passion with the public? Become a STEM Communication Fellow at Sci-Port's STEM Communications Institute, at no cost to you or your organization!

Sci-Port's STEM Communications Institute is part of a nationwide Portal to the Public program, funded by the National Science Foundation. Portal to the Public is a program designed to help Informal Science Education (ISE) institutions, like Sci-Port, bring scientists and public audiences together in face-to-face interactions.

Below are some exciting perspectives on Portal to the Public:

"It's so important to have scientists talk to kids—have a conversation, face-to-face...not just kiosks and games but real contact. It makes a difference."

- Visitor at a Portal to the Public event

"I feel like I finally learned how to make my science topic approachable to the average person...and how to engage them and discover what they know."

- Portal to the Public scientist

My informal science colleagues and I at Sci-Port have designed a special training program for groups like you! If you think the STEM Communications Institute is something that can enhance your interactions with the public, please see the attached flier and application form. Training begins in January, 2015, so please submit your application by the December 31st deadline. Spaces are limited and first-come first-serve.

Here is the link to our Sci-Port page

http://pixelfusion10.securesites.net/sciport/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=portal Here is the link to the Portal to the Public (PoPNet) page with a video about PoPNet http://popnet.pacificsciencecenter.org/

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Heather E. Kleiner, Ph.D. Special Programs and Education Grants Manager Sci-Port, Louisiana's Science Center 820 Clyde Fant Parkway Shreveport, LA 71101 (318) 424-8675