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FAU Harbor Branch to Host Regional Qualifier for National Ocean Sciences Bowl

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (February 26, 2015) – Teams of local high school students will gather at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI), 5600 U.S. 1 North, in Fort Pierce, on Saturday, February 28 to compete in the Florida Manatee Bowl. The annual regional competition tests teams through quick-answer buzzer questions, and the winners earn a spot in the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB.) HBOI has co-hosted the event with the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences for 18 years, with the event location alternating each year between Fort Pierce and Miami.

“The Florida Manatee Bowl is an opportunity for Florida’s high school students to showcase their interest and understanding of one of our greatest resources, our oceans,” said Dr. Dennis Hanisak, Harbor Branch’s Director of Education and coordinator of the event. “I believe the Ocean Sciences Bowl will be both a challenging and a fun event, not only for the students, but also for their teachers, and the scientists and volunteers who will be hosting, organizing, and volunteering at this bowl.”

Through this educational forum, the NOSB strives to encourage and support the next generation of marine scientists, policy makers, teachers, explorers, researchers, technicians, environmental advocates and informed citizens to be stewards of the ocean. St. Lucie County schools that will participate in the event include Westwood's Marine & Oceanographic Academy, Fort Pierce Central High School, and Lincoln Park Academy.

For more information, contact Carin Campbell Smith at 772-242-2230 or carin.smith@fau.edu.

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About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit www.fau.edu/hboi.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.