

**Media Contact:**

Ashlee Hurley

Director of Marketing and Sales

717-724-3879

ahurley@whitakercenter.org

NOVEMBER 2013**Expedition Chesapeake Receives EPA Grant***Whitaker Center Educational Project Gains Support From Environmental Protection Agency*

Harrisburg, PA- Whitaker Center's multi-media educational experience, *Expedition Chesapeake*, has been approved for a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The grant was proposed as part of the EPA's Educational Priority for Community Projects and addresses environmental stewardship in a local formal education context through the use of outdoor, place-based, experiential, service learning activities as primary teaching tools. It also addresses EPA's Environmental Priority of Protecting America's Waters with its emphasis on restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed's ecosystems and to providing healthy habitats for fish, plants and wildlife.

These funds will be used to support the distribution and implementation of six learning modules as part of the Expedition Chesapeake program. The creation of the modules has already been funded in full through grants from the Pennsylvania Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, Community and Economic Development and Education as well as Dauphin County. The various modules will provide middle school and high school students with an educational exploration into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The total EPA funding is \$205,305 over two years with \$70,325 in matching funds from Whitaker Center.

Expedition Chesapeake is a multi-faceted program that bridges the gap between textbook education and real-world learning. All of the separate facets of this ambitious project will culminate in a large-format film designed to bring the stories of the 17 million Chesapeake Bay watershed residents to classrooms everywhere. All components of *Expedition Chesapeake* are grounded in the real lives of families, friends, and neighbors working hard to protect and preserve the country's largest estuary. In addition to a giant screen film and online pieces, *Expedition Chesapeake* will also feature a 4D traveling science exhibit and a series of made-for-television documentaries.

###