FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attention: News, Assignment and Photo Editors

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Future Engineers, Scientists and Technicians Go Head-to-Head in a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition

Witness six high school teams from southeastern Wisconsin demonstrate their prowess as they compete against each other’s Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) during the fourth annual Wisconsin MATE Regional ROV Contest from 8am to 4pm, Sun., March 17, at the Pilot House in Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Dr., and the UWM Klotsche Center Pool, 3409 N. Downer Ave.

The competition begins with an interactive video conference between the UWM Klotsche Center Swimming Pool and Discovery World from 10am to 2pm. Footage from the UWM Swimming Pool features safety checks, testing the ROVs in the pool, set-up, mission challenges, breakdown and engineering presentations. The focus at the Pilot House will be ROV/Business Mentor Presentations and poster judging.

The challenge put to Wisconsin’s Regional 2013 Building the Water Generation ROV competition high school teams? To design and develop ROVs to play a vital role in the installation, operation and maintenance of regional cabled ocean observing systems.

The following teams all feature students who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM): Lakeview Technology Academy, Pleasant Prairie; Oostburg/Ozaukee High Schools, Oostburg and Fredonia; Vincent High School; Milwaukee; The Prairie School, Racine; West Bend High Schools, West Bend; and the New School for Community Service, Milwaukee.

Last summer, Oostburg/Ozaukee High Schools represented Wisconsin, and became the national Ranger Class champions while competing against 20 other regional champions during the 11th year of international in Orlando, Florida. Two years ago, the champion team from Ozaukee High School competed at the NASA Johnson Space Center’s Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Houston, TX (2011) and in Hilo, Hawaii (2010).

This year, the first-place team will receive support toward travel to and from the 12th annual international Mate ROV Competition at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in Seattle, Washington, June 20-22.
The Building the Water Generation ROV Competition for the State or Wisconsin was developed in partnership with the Milwaukee Water Council, UWM School of Freshwater Sciences, UWM School of Continuing Education, UWM College of Engineering & Applied Science, Discovery World, A.O. Smith, Badger Meter, The Coast Guard and Collins Engineers, Inc. The Building the Water Generation ROV Competition is a regional site to the international Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE).

Besides raising student awareness of freshwater career opportunities, it provides the means of developing technical, communication, teamwork, problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Public/private sector experts also are sought out to mentor regional teams on the United Nations Compact issues (aquaculture, phosphorus, storm water, waste treatment, new technologies, contaminants and integrated solutions), and connect students and teachers with working professionals in the water sector.

Other pluses are that ROV Teams are matched with water sector working professionals that volunteer their time and technical expertise as mentors, technical assistants, and competition judges.

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**About the School of Continuing Education:** As one of 14 schools and colleges that comprise the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, SCE offers participants an assortment of over 1,000 programs and 600 practitioner instructors. With nearly 13,000 participants each year, SCE is the largest provider of noncredit continuing education in southeastern Wisconsin. Its mission is to generate knowledge and learning opportunities for those interested in developing professional skills in business, technology and human services, enriching their lives with classes in arts and humanities or those who are simply looking for a new intellectual challenge.