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## The Ecological Society of America (ESA) Partners with SEA

*Through funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Science and Engineering Alliance, Inc. (SEA) has been awarded a subcontract to partner with the Ecological Society of America (ESA) on cultivating participation of underrepresented institutions and students in National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) science and education.*

**Washington, DC June 15, 2009** – The Ecological Society of America (ESA) has been awarded a \$207,000 grant from NSF to cultivate the participation of underrepresented institutions and students in (NEON) science and education.

The project, in collaboration with the Science and Engineering Alliance (SEA) and NEON Inc., will implement pilot educational webinars, a workshop for college students to explore the use of social media applications for NEON, and a series of College Speaking Tours to 17 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) that are part of the SEA Phosphorus Observational Network (SEAPON) initiative. This proposal continues the efforts of ESA and SEA to introduce NEON to the educational community.

ESA was founded for the purpose of unifying the science of ecology, stimulating research in all aspects of the discipline, encouraging communication among ecologists, and promoting the responsible application of ecological data and principles to the solution of environmental problems. The Society has grown from the first interested few to over 10,000 members worldwide..

SEA is a Washington, D.C. based 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1990 “to address the challenge of establishing an ethnically diverse technical workforce prepared to compete in today’s global marketplace.” Its unique program is dedicated to ensuring that historically underrepresented talent plays a vital role in the nation’s scientific and engineering future. It is believed that by working together, SEA will accelerate the production of globally competitive American scientists and engineers among people of color. Public and private sector organizations seeking to enhance their intellectual talent pool can look to SEA member institutions to provide quality scientists and first-rate scientific research.

SEA members include: Alabama A&M University (Huntsville, AL); Jackson State University (Jackson, MS); Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX) and Southern University and A&M College (Baton Rouge, LA), and two national laboratories -- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, CA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD.

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