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The Science Coalition Honors Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) for Commitment to Maintaining America's Leadership in Scientific Research

Washington, D.C., Nov. 7, 2013 – The Science Coalition today presented Congressman Sam Farr with its Champion of Science Award in recognition of his strong commitment to funding the basic research that keeps the United States and the state of California at the forefront of scientific discovery and technological innovation. The award was presented by University of California, Santa Cruz Chancellor George Blumenthal at an event on the UCSC campus. The University of California System is a member of The Science Coalition.

"Sam Farr has been a real champion for science and education," Blumenthal said. "He not only appreciates the important role that scientific research plays in discovery and innovation, he appreciates the role that discovery and innovation play in fostering a healthy economy and society. He has been a true partner with higher education."

As a long-time member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Farr has tirelessly fought for sustained federal funding for scientific research. Representing California's 20th district, including Monterey Bay, he has been a longtime advocate of oceanic research, co-founding the House Oceans Caucus. Congressman Farr played a key role in bringing several state and federal oceanic research facilities to co-locate in Santa Cruz, resulting in increased collaboration and research opportunities with UC Santa Cruz.

"Science is at the heart of every industry that makes up our nation's economy," said Farr. "If we want to compete in the global market, our country must continue to make investments in education, research and innovation. I am proud to accept this award from the Science Coalition, a wonderful organization that helps foster that commitment through our leading research universities."

Congressman Farr's support of agricultural research is equally strong. He co-founded the Congressional Organics Caucus and serves as ranking member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. During his tenure, Farr authored important legislation for organic food standards, agriculture research and food safety.

"Congressman Farr understands that in order for our country to thrive, we must continue to fund the critical research that drives innovation and fuels our economy," said Science Coalition President Tim Leshan of Northeastern University. "Whether it is medicine, technology, agriculture or the environment, Congressman Farr knows that research is critical in helping the United States stay at the forefront of discovery in these critical areas."

The Science Coalition's Champion of Science Award recognizes members of Congress whose actions and votes consistently reflect their belief that basic scientific research, conducted at universities and

national labs across the country, is essential to the nation's ability to address pressing issues in health, security, energy and the environment, and additionally, that a strong federally supported basic research enterprise drives innovation that fuels the U.S. economy. Congressman Farr joins a distinguished group of more than 60 current and former members of Congress who have received this award since 1999.

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The Science Coalition, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of the nation's leading public and private research universities, is dedicated to sustaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America's global competitiveness. Learn more at www.sciencecoalition.org.