



NEWS FROM CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2240 Iyannough Road

West Barnstable,

MA 02668

TOLL FREE 1-877-846-3672

For Immediate Release February 12, 2014

For More Information Please Contact: Michael Gross: mgross@capecod.edu

Director of College Communications - 508-375-4003 – office direct line

508-648-2051 – cell

College Welcomes Academy Award Nominee Mark Ruffalo, and Cape-Based Scientist/Entrepreneur Scott Smith to Campus February 24th, to Explore New Initiative in Water Quality Testing and Pollution Control

West Barnstable, MA: Noted actor/director and Academy Award Nominee Mark Ruffalo (The Kids Are All Right, Now You See Me, The Avengers, among many) joins Cape Cod-based scientist and entrepreneur Scott Smith (OPFLEX®Technology) at Cape Cod Community College, February 24th at 7 p.m., to outline a new research collaboration with the College's Environmental Technology program, focused on demonstrating an emerging technology's efficacy to fingerprint, monitor, and help reduce pollution of Cape Cod's waters. The public is encouraged to attend free of charge to hear the duo speak in the Tilden Art Center's Main Theater. Ruffalo and Smith will share their commitment to creating a curriculum at the College that supports baseline water testing that can keep the region up to date on water contaminants that accumulate over time.

Mark Ruffalo is committed to keeping the nation's water contaminant free. He established a nonprofit foundation, Water Defense, (www.waterdefense.org) to support that commitment. This new Cape-based effort, in collaboration with Scott Smith who has joined the Water Defense foundation as its chief scientist, will provide CCCC's students opportunities to use state-of-the-art technologies as part of their science studies.

CCCC's President John Cox praised the new initiative's impact on student learning, "This collaboration enables our students to gain exposure to new material applications while participating in the testing of a new methodology. It opens the doors for internship opportunities and allows the College to share information through community-wide education."

He added that this continues the institution's long-standing commitment to sustainability, resource protection and conservation. "This confirms our commitment to environmental sustainability and partnerships with businesses and nonprofits that promote opportunities for our students, and enables us to continue to promote good stewardship of Cape Cod resources," Cox concluded.

In 2012, Smith gave an initial presentation at Cape Cod Community College that included an overview of OPFLEX Eelgrass and how it replicates natural eelgrass to support a healthy coastal ecosystem. Additionally, early testing indicates that OPFLEX Technology's open-celled foam design can collect data on both what it absorbs, and the rates of accumulation of toxins over time. Such a characteristic could prove significant in providing data currently not available from typical instantaneous testing.

At the conclusion of the formal program, both Ruffalo and Smith will take questions from the audience.

END.....

-