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## **Visclosky Announces \$279,586 for Valparaiso University**

*Award Will Support STEM Education Programs to Prepare Students for High-Paying Jobs*

Feb 7, 2013 | Issues: [Jobs and Economy](#)

**Valparaiso, IN** – Congressman Visclosky announced that Valparaiso University received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

The grant from NSF will support the Valparaiso Experience in Research by Undergraduate Mathematicians (VERUM). VERUM selects undergraduates each year to work for nine weeks on open problems in applied and theoretical mathematics. In each project, the participants will investigate questions of interest to the broader mathematical community.

Dr. Lara Pudwell, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Valparaiso, explained that the VERUM program is often the first research opportunity for students to engage in mathematical research. “Over the course of the summer, they will hone research and communication skills that help them prepare for graduate school in the mathematical sciences and future careers in STEM disciplines,” Dr. Pudwell said.

“We must invest in a well-trained workforce to protect the jobs of today and create the jobs of tomorrow,” Congressman Visclosky said. “STEM workers will attract new businesses to our region and help make our local industries more efficient.”

Valparaiso University will join nine other local colleges and universities for the Visclosky Financial Aid and Opportunity Night on Thursday, February 21, 2013, from 6-8 PM at the Gary Area Career Center. At the event,

Congressman Visclosky, Mayor Freeman-Wilson, Dr. Pruitt of the Gary Community Schools Corporation, and Richard Blasen of the U.S. Department of Education will deliver presentations on financial aid resources to attendees, and local college booths will offer resources to students and parents in attendance. The event is free and open to the public.