



Contact:

Julie Parente (773) 753-6249

Lisa Miner (773) 947-6005

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**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY HONORS CHICAGO-AREA STUDENTS,
TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE**

CHICAGO (June 10, 2010) – The Museum of Science and Industry honored recent high school graduates, teachers and after-school science club providers from across the Chicago area for their passion for science.

They were recognized at an event celebrating the Museum’s Center for the Advancement of Science Education. The event, held June 9 at the Chase Bank auditorium in Chicago, featured remarks from Dr. Carla Pugh, director of the Center for Advanced Surgical Medicine at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

“In today’s technology-driven world, our nation’s future depends on new generations of scientists who can continue our legacy of science leadership,” said David Mosena, Museum president and CEO. “We need more students who want to be engineers, explorers, doctors and inventors, and we need more educators who are confident in teaching science to nurture that interest. That’s why the Museum has placed educational programming at the heart of what we do.”

The 31 students who were recognized are part of the Museum’s Science Achievers youth development program, which provides teens from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to learn about science, develop public-speaking skills, prepare for college and learn about science careers. Science Achievers also participate in paid internships, mentor younger students and engage Museum guests of all ages in fun, hands-on science activities on the Museum floor.

The Museum provided a surprise gift to the Science Achievers graduates who are going on to college in the fall – laptop computers, generously provided by CDW Corporation.

The event also honored Chicago-area teachers who have completed the Museum’s yearlong professional development course. Many of these teachers have little experience teaching science and credit the Museum’s program for building their skills and passion for science. Courses can be taken as part of a new master of science education degree offered jointly by the Museum and Illinois Institute of Technology in a partnership that is the first of its kind in the nation.

Twenty-eight teachers were specially recognized for participating in the Museum’s courses for at least three years. They received a microscope that connects to a computer, allowing the class to watch live video of the microscope’s images. The Museum also recognized five schools for their commitment to science education by allowing their teachers to participate in Museum courses for four years. Those schools are:

- Andersen Community Academy, Chicago
- Dixon Elementary School, Chicago
- Gallistel Language Academy, Chicago
- Heritage Middle School, Berwyn
- Sawyer Elementary School, Chicago

The event also recognized staff and leaders at 23 sites that are part of the Museum's network of after-school Science Minors Clubs. They were honored for participating in the program for at least three years, and staff members also received a microscope and software for connecting to a computer.

Programs offered through the Center for the Advancement of Science Education are designed to realize the Museum's vision: to inspire and motivate our children to achieve their full potential in the fields of science, technology, medicine and engineering. Each year, these programs reach about 1,000 teachers and 5,000 students.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) offers thousands of fun and interactive exhibits and one-of-a-kind, world-class experiences to inspire the inventive genius in everyone. Through its Center for the Advancement of Science Education, MSI also aspires to a larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find *your* inspiration! MSI is open every day except Dec. 25, and summer hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. The Museum is supported in part through the generosity of the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, find MSI online at msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.

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