



Contact:

Julie Parente (773) 753-6249
Lisa Miner (773) 947-6005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

CHICAGO (May 19, 2011) – The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) honored high school seniors, teachers, schools 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 May 18 at the Museum, featured a panel discussion with engineer and inventor Lonnie G. Johnson, Inventables CEO Zach Kaplan and marine biologist Dr. Tierney Thys.

“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,” said David Mosena, Museum president and CEO. “That’s why the Museum has placed educational programming at the heart of what we do.”

The 17 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 leadership skills, prepare for college and learn about science careers. Science Achievers also participate in paid internships, mentor younger students and engage Museum guests in hands-on science activities.

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

The Museum presented the Leadership in Science Education Award to three schools: Gallistel Language Academy in Chicago, Heritage Middle School in Berwyn and Sawyer Elementary School in Chicago. Those schools were honored for their commitment to science education by allowing their teachers to participate in Museum courses for five years.

Ten teachers were honored for participating in all of the Museum’s courses. They received a microscope that connects to a computer, allowing the class to watch live video of the microscope’s images. Three teacher participants in MSI programs also were recognized for recently receiving a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching: Ronald Hale of CICS-Avalon, Marc Hans of Hanson Park Elementary School, and Arleta Ingram of Carnegie Elementary.

(more)

The event also recognized 17 partner sites that have been part of the Museum's network of after-school Science Minors Clubs for at least three years. Those sites 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.

###