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**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY HONORS NORTHWEST INDIANA TEACHERS  
FOR BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE**

CHICAGO (May 18, 2011) – Three northwest Indiana teachers were honored at a special Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) event that recognized students, teachers, schools and after-school science club providers for their passion for science.

The teachers were recognized for being part of MSI’s network of after-school Science Minors Clubs for at least three years. The honored teachers are:

- Martha Purcell, Harrison Elementary School, East Chicago, Ind.
- Carol Presdorf, River Forest Elementary School, Gary, Ind.
- Wanda Cavazos, Washington Elementary School, East Chicago, Ind.

The teachers will receive microscopes that connect to a computer, allowing the class to watch live video of the microscope’s images. In addition, Purcell was invited to speak at the event to describe how being part of the Science Minors Club network has transformed her students.

The event celebrated participants in programs offered by 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.”

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](http://msichicago.org) or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.