



museum of  
**science+industry**  
chicago

**Contacts:**

Lisa Miner, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 947-6005  
Julie Parente, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 753-6249

**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON THE ROLE  
MUSEUMS PLAY IN PROMOTING SCIENCE LEARNING**

**CHICAGO** – On the heels of a new report by the National Academy of Sciences on science learning in informal environments, a representative of the Museum of Science and Industry spoke before a Congressional subcommittee on the leadership role of museums in improving science education.

The House Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, chaired by U.S. Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), heard testimony on the topic “Beyond the Classroom: Informal STEM Education” on Feb. 26, 2009.

Andrea Ingram, the Museum’s Vice President of Education and Guest Services, discussed how museums are natural leaders in helping to improve science education at a time when American students have fallen behind their international peers in science.

“In a technology-driven world, America’s social and economic future depends on new generations of scientists who can help sustain our legacy of innovation and science leadership. However, increasing evidence indicates that education and engagement in science is on the decline,” Ingram said. “At a time when schools face shrinking resources and growing demands, reversing this trend depends on leadership from civic institutions that partner with families, communities and schools.”

She highlighted how the Museum of Science and Industry is creating a new national model for how science museums connect with students, teachers, communities and school systems to advance science education.

Ingram also noted that Americans recognize the importance of science education. A national survey conducted on behalf of the Museum found that 70 percent of adults believe America has lost its edge in science, and 79 percent believe science education is not receiving the level of attention it deserves in our nation’s schools.

Read Andrea Ingram’s full testimony at [www.msichicago.org/press](http://www.msichicago.org/press).

**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 December 25, and regular hours are 9:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. 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.

###