

For Immediate Release

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LIVE...FROM THE HEART

Students learn about heart health through innovative education featuring a live broadcast of open-heart surgery

Chicago students will get the chance to imagine themselves as cardiologists in training by participating in open-heart surgery thanks to a partnership between the Museum of Science and Industry and Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Ill. *Live...From the Heart* is a videoconference-based cardiovascular education program designed to offer students and teachers in grades 6-12 a dramatic exploration of the human heart.

The program includes the live broadcast of a low risk coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG), pre- and post-visit classroom materials, Web content on www.livefromtheheart.org and a professional development institute for teachers. The program is designed to bring their classroom learning to life and to help students understand their own heart and make better lifestyle choices to keep their heart healthy. Additionally, students have a fantastic opportunity to explore various careers in the health sciences through interaction with the entire surgical team.

Every Thursday, students visit the Museum of Science and Industry to view the live surgery via videoconferencing and interact in “real time” with the cardiovascular surgeon and the surgical team at Christ Medical Center. Other classrooms from around the country do the pre-work and join the program by using videoconferencing equipment.

During the surgery, students use an “investigation journal” to track questions and

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answers about the patients. Additionally, students engage in collaborative activities that illustrate key learning points in the surgery. For example, they learn the importance of the operating room's sterile field by testing bacteria levels on their hands before and after washing.

Prior to viewing the surgery, the Museum sends teachers a kit to help them prepare their students for the broadcast and to maximize the learning experience. The kit includes lesson plans for hands-on experiments that explore the learning goals. Teachers also are invited to attend a professional development program where they can learn how to facilitate the material and activities.

In conjunction with the *Live...From the Heart* program, an interactive Web site helps students, teachers and parents learn more about the program and healthy living. The Web site (www.livefromtheheart.org) includes profiles of the surgical team, information about what students can expect while viewing the open-heart surgery, and answers to frequently asked questions.

The technology-rich classroom, completely wired from the ceiling to the floor, is equipped with videoconferencing and networking capabilities that enable students to communicate with the surgical team during the entire surgery. The E-Suite was created for the Museum as a pro bono project by Skidmore Owings & Merrill.

Live...From the Heart is funded by the United States Department of Education's Star Schools grant and additional funding is provided by Ameritech.

Located at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, just minutes from downtown Chicago, the Museum is open every day of the year except December 25. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. General admission pricing, \$9 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and \$5 for children ages 3-11. (City of Chicago resident pricing: \$8 for adults, \$6.75 for seniors and \$4.25 for children ages 3-11). For more information, call (773) 684-1414 or visit our website at www.msichicago.org. Outside of the Chicago area, call 1 (800) GO-TO-MSI (1-800-468-6674).

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