



museum of
science+industry
chicago

Contact:
Julie Parente (773) 753-6249
julie.parente@msichicago.org

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY ENHANCES SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS WITH NEW GRANT

CHICAGO — The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) is strengthening its science education programs for Chicago-area teachers thanks to a new grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The two-year, \$750,000 grant from the philanthropic foundation will support **the Museum's** science teacher education coursework and new Science Leadership Initiative. MSI has committed to improving the science teaching skills for 1,000 educators over the next five years.

"MSI is at the forefront of national efforts to develop and provide high-quality, innovative science education," said David Mosena, Museum president and CEO. "It's critical to make science engaging through hands-on, inquiry-based teaching methods so that students are excited about science and interested in STEM careers. This funding strengthens our efforts to help students develop the essential thinking skills they need for the jobs of the future."

The Museum's science teacher courses target 4th-8th grade teachers with limited or no background in science or science teaching. These courses significantly improve what teachers and their students know about science, according to a recent study by an internationally known expert at the Education Policy Center at Michigan State University.

Teachers at schools with predominately low-income, high-need student populations are top priority. The Museum reduces barriers to participation by offering courses at no cost and paying for substitute teachers for sessions held on school days. Teachers are recruited in pairs to ensure support back at school, and after each session they receive lesson plans, student worksheets, discussion forums, and kits of materials to conduct classroom science activities for all students.

More than 900 teachers from nearly 350 schools have participated to date. Two-thirds are from Chicago Public Schools. In fact, 39% of CPS K-8 schools have at least one MSI-trained science teacher.

The grant also funds the Museum's new Science Leadership Initiative, which is designed to support science education on a whole-school level. The initiative identifies the components that lead to an effective science education, provides tools and supports for teachers and administrators, and will reward and recognize schools that transform their science education.

Learn more about these programs at msichicago.org/education/teacher-courses.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make you the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Center for the Advancement of Science Education (CASE), the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's 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 9:30–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas day. Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.

#