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**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY HONORS 41 CHICAGO-AREA TEACHERS
ON NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY**

National Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 7, 2019

CHICAGO (May 7, 2019) – With the typical elementary school spending an average of about 20 minutes per day on science*, the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) is marking National Teacher Appreciation Day by celebrating 41 Chicago-area teachers who champion and prioritize science learning.

These 41 teachers, together with their school’s administration, have made a three-year commitment to help bring whole-school change that drives science learning forward, and gives their colleagues the tools to drive their individual subjects forward with science in mind. Each teacher-principal team works directly with MSI educators and over the course of three years to:

- Expand their impact beyond their classroom and promote science as a whole-school priority.
- Develop new tools and programming for the whole school to engage with science every day.
- Join The STEM Network – a cross-community communication platform provided by MSI to teachers in the program.

“Through the [Science Leadership Initiative], science went from being taught a few times a month, to once a week, to every day in the primary grades at our school,” said Nick Wells, a Science Leadership graduate from CPS’ Federico Garcia Lorca Elementary School. “When teachers start to see the buy-in and implementation for their ideas from other staff members and support from administration, they feel empowered.”

This program, the Science Leadership Initiative, is the first and only program in the U.S. that brings administrators and educators together to provide comprehensive tools, continued support and confidence to implement whole-school change around science.

During a recognition event at MSI, from 5 – 8 p.m. on May 7, each school partner will share posters highlighting a snapshot of their success as models for other schools looking to enhance science. Ten of these school partners will share the impact of their work in greater depth via onstage presentations. Teachers will receive a \$2,500 personal stipend for their success in the program. The school will also receive a \$500 donation from MSI along with a recognition banner.

“The Science Leadership Initiative supports teachers in feeling confident to create whole-school change after gauging and improving the quality of science education throughout the building,” said Nicole Kowrach, MSI’s ITW director of teaching and learning. “MSI provides the tools and support for advancing teacher success to, in turn, inspire the next generation of scientists.”

The Science Leadership Class of 2019

Kristen Shreffler, Crete-Monee Middle School, University Park, Illinois

Cara West, Durkin Park School, Chicago

Jacqueline Taylor, Earle STEM Elementary, Chicago

Anita London, Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School, Skokie, Illinois

Tamika Reynolds, Jane Addams Elementary, Chicago

Caitlin Tully, John W. Cook Academy, Chicago

Shelley Deutscher, Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School,
Michigan City, Indiana

Izetta Washington, Perkins Bass Elementary School, Chicago

Latonia Reynolds, Piccolo School of Excellence, Chicago

Angela Vasey, Plum Grove Junior High, Rolling Meadows, Illinois

Hallie Askuvich, Sauganash Elementary School, Chicago

Paul Karlovics, Walker Elementary, Bedford Park, Illinois

Angelo Restivo, William J. Onahan Elementary School, Chicago

The full list of MSI school partners is available at msichicago.org/education/professional-development/science-leadership/school-partners/our-school-partners/.

Since 2006, MSI has trained more than 1,200 teachers impacting more than 320,000 students as part of its Welcome to Science Initiative. Learn more about The Welcome to Science Initiative and the Museum of Science and Industry's dedication to providing quality science education at msichicago.org/welcometoscience.

*[Data from the 2018 National Survey of Science and Mathematics Education](#)

About The Welcome to Science Initiative

The Welcome to Science Initiative helps children achieve their full potential in science by creating learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and removing barriers that exclude them from participating. Our unique youth-centered approach supports students and everyone involved their success—families, educators, schools and communities. Program strategies focus on improving the quality of science teaching in schools; connecting science to children wherever they are; and showcasing diversity in STEM fields. We place a priority on serving schools and neighborhoods with predominantly low-income student populations.

About MSI

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 Welcome to Science Initiative, 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.

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