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Contact: **Ryan Kilpatrick**, CG&A, (312) 335-0100
Holly Dotterer, CG&A, (312) 335-0100

Science Chicago a World-Class Success *Excitement Builds for Upcoming Events*

CHICAGO – Science Chicago, the world’s largest science celebration, is being declared a huge success as participation and attendance at events continues to grow.

“We were confident there would be a high level of interest but the enthusiasm and support we’re seeing exceeds all of our expectations,” said Cheryl Hughes, Executive Director, Science Chicago. “Based on what we’ve seen so far, we anticipate even more excitement for the unique and engaging events scheduled in the coming months.”

Science Chicago is a year-long science celebration designed to raise awareness about the significance of science in everyday life. Supporting the concept that “life is a lab”, Science Chicago offers opportunities for people of all ages to learn and have fun with science in nontraditional formats. The ambitious collaboration includes the participation of more than 140 public and private institutions that will allow city and suburban residents of all ages to awaken their inner scientist and discover the scientific resources of the region.

"In a changing world dominated by the global economy, it is vital that we raise awareness about the importance of a science education. The future of our children depends on cities that are capable of producing graduates who can perform the jobs of a global economy," said Mayor Richard M. Daley. "Together, we have a responsibility to make a career in science an option for every child."

Among the activities and events scheduled through August:

- **Science Saturdays**, behind-the-scenes tours which include some of the region’s most celebrated and hard-to-see laboratories. See first-hand how scientists at Argonne National Laboratory are creating the next generation of batteries for hybrid electric vehicles or go behind the scenes of a real dinosaur lab to examine never-before-seen dinosaur bones. For a complete schedule of Science Saturdays go to <http://www.sciencechicago.com/content/science-saturdays>
- **Jr. Science Cafes**, free, informal gatherings led by scientists and engineers who talk with teens about their work and how it affects our lives and world. Scientists discuss topics ranging from magnetism to what the fossil record says about evolution. Also, participants can take flight with an engineer as he talks about the science behind airplanes and rockets. Check out all of our Jr. Science Cafes at <http://www.sciencechicago.com/content/the-lab>

A full roster of activities can be found on the Science Chicago Web site at www.sciencechicago.com.

“Science Chicago is about making science relevant to everyone,” said David Mosena, President and CEO of the Museum of Science and Industry and Vice-Chair of the Science Chicago Board of Advisors. “We hope that millions of people in our region will come out and experience science in a whole new light.” The festival launched last August and will conclude August, 2009.

Science Chicago offers teachers and scientists an online portal to connect with one another and with resources that can enhance classroom learning. The online “Find a Scientist!” feature allows educators to identify scientists and engineers who are willing to visit classrooms, mentor students and offer unique insight for classroom lessons. The online “Teachers’ Lounge” connects educators with professional development opportunities, classroom materials, field trips, traveling exhibits and other resources offered by Science Chicago partners. These features, as well as a complete calendar of events, at home experiments are available at www.sciencechicago.com. There is also an interactive blog at www.sciencechicagoblog.com.

The initiative is funded, in part, by the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust. It is also made possible through the generous financial support of Abbott, the Boeing Company, Illinois Tool Works Inc., and Motorola. The Museum of Science and Industry, which is leading the initiative, and more than 100 partners are providing the content and programs that will inspire the region.

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About Science Chicago

The Museum of Science and Industry is spearheading Science Chicago, a collaboration of more than 140 public and private institutions that have come together to present the world’s largest science celebration. Designed to awaken the inner scientist in each and every one of us, thousands of dynamic and interactive activities will provide hands-on learning; spur thoughtful debate; enhance classroom learning; and build enthusiasm for the pursuit of cutting-edge science while establishing the critical value of science and math education.

For more information, visit www.sciencechicago.com.