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As Seen on TV: Pioneering Brain Surgeon, Movie Inspiration Helps Young Chicagoans “Think Big”

*Science Chicago welcomes biopic subject Dr. Benjamin Carson
for dynamic conversation about brain medicine and science careers*

CHICAGO [May 13, 2009] – If you knew that removing half of your child’s brain would cure his or her debilitating illness, would you do it? This and other revolutionary neurosurgical techniques are the expertise of world-renowned brain surgeon, Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr., subject of the television biopic, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, which premiered on TNT television in February, 2009, and starred Oscar winning actor Cuba Gooding, Jr. as Dr. Carson.

Science Chicago is proud to welcome Dr. Carson for a dynamic presentation called **Think Big** about the cutting edge of brain medicine and the power of dedication in pursuing a science career. **Think Big** is Tuesday, June 2 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium in the Harold Washington Library, 400 South State Street, Chicago.

“Dr. Carson’s story is an inspiration to so many people,” said Cheryl Hughes, Executive Director of Science Chicago. “He embodies the true spirit of science and personifies the goals we are trying to achieve through Science Chicago. We hope Dr. Carson’s visit will encourage young people from all backgrounds to follow their dreams and pursue careers in science.”

Like many children, Benjamin Carson dreamt of being a doctor. Growing up in a single parent home with dire poverty, poor grades, a horrible temper, and low self-esteem, his dream appeared to be too big. However, his mother, with only a third-grade education, challenged her sons to strive for excellence. Young Ben persevered and today is a full professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and he has directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center for nearly a quarter of a century. He became the inaugural recipient of a professorship dedicated in his name in May, 2008.

Admission to **Think Big** is FREE, but reservations are required. Please email rsvp@sciencechicago.com.

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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.