



Exploring the World of Science

For Immediate Release:

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<http://soinc.org/>

Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative Brings Together Industry Experts for First Annual “Build It Learn It Day” at the Museum of Science and Industry

CHICAGO, IL — February 11, 2009. More than 180 students and 30 teachers from 17 Chicago Public Schools will build Elevated Bridges, solve a Science Crime Busters mystery and get acquainted with turtles and snakes at the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative “Build It Learn It Day” at the Museum of Science and Industry on Friday, February 13, 2009, from 9:45 am to 2:00 pm.

In preparation for the Science Olympiad Regional Tournament at Wright College later this spring, eight middle school teams and nine high school teams from neighborhoods across Chicago will work in four 45-minute sessions on signature Science Olympiad events led by industry professionals from The Adler Planetarium, The Shedd Aquarium, The Field Museum, The Museum of Science and Industry and the University of Illinois REACT Chemistry program as well as State Event Supervisors from Illinois Science Olympiad. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Innovate Now program set up a mentor-matching program for the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative (USI) this fall, and business leaders from IBM, Navteq, Rico Enterprises, Fina Interactive, the International Quality Institute and the Latino Technology Association will be in attendance, helping kids and teachers engineer Electric Vehicles, perfect Trajectory devices and classify Fossils.

Funding for the Science Olympiad has been provided by a coalition of partners dedicated to the goal of bringing more CPS students into science extracurricular activities like Science Olympiad, including Science Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Wright College, Illinois Science Olympiad, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Innovate Now program. See http://soinc.org/urban_school_initiative for more information.

Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

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