

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Grant to Support MCCSC Field Trips to WonderLab Museum

Bloomington, IN — The Old National Bank Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology in Bloomington to support Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) field trips to the award-winning museum this year. The grant covers bus transportation, group admission fees and special science demonstrations for more than 680 MCCSC students, accompanied by their teachers and adult chaperones, from six Title 1 elementary schools during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Funding for MCCSC field trips was drastically cut this year due to the economic crisis, which created public school budgetary shortfalls statewide. This grant makes it possible for two grades from each of the six elementary schools — Arlington, Fairview, Grandview, Highland Park, Summit and Templeton — to have this science field trip. Teachers will be given pre-visit resources and the chance to review exhibits and help plan the field trip with museum staff to maximize the educational value of the field trip for their students.

Writing in support of the grant proposal, MCCSC superintendent J.T. Coopman said, “I cannot stress enough the educational value of hands-on experiences with science. A trip to the museum offers exciting experiential learning opportunities often not available in the classroom.”

The mission of the Old National Bank Foundation is to advance economic development, education and the quality of life for the success of the communities served by Old National Bank. There are four Old National retail banking centers in the Monroe County school district. Prior to this grant, the foundation sponsored WonderLab’s Water Works, a major addition to the museum’s collection of permanent science exhibits, in 2009.

WonderLab, a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is a top 25 hands-on science center (Parents, 2008). The museum’s mission is to provide opportunities for people to discover the wonder and excitement of science and learning through hands-on experiences. WonderLab serves more than 80,000 visitors annually, approximately 13,000 of whom come in groups from schools or other agencies. The museum is located at 308 West Fourth Street in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD).

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