

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE WONDERLAB MUSEUM RECEIVES STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bloomington, Indiana—The WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology in Bloomington, Indiana, was one of six non-profit organizations from across the state honored with a 2008 Indiana Achievement Award at a special ceremony in Indianapolis this past Tuesday, November 18. WonderLab was particularly noted for its innovations in making science an exciting and lasting part of children's lives, promoting science literacy, and creating partnerships throughout the educational, civic, and business sectors to widen the impact of the museum's mission in the community and region. The award was accompanied by a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, made possible by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

The Sycamore Foundation in Indianapolis presents the Indiana Achievement Awards each year to "discover, recognize, reward and encourage outstanding business practices among Indiana's diverse nonprofit sector." The foundation bases its selection on the nonprofit organization's impact on the community, accountability to customers, ability to forge successful partnerships with other community groups, and the effectiveness of the board in guiding the institution.

"We are honored to receive this award, which recognizes the excellence of the WonderLab organization and its importance as a resource to the community. This statewide recognition demonstrates that donating to WonderLab is an outstanding investment," said Catherine Olmer, WonderLab's executive director. The museum is in the midst of an \$85,000 end-of-year appeal. WonderLab does not receive annual operating funds from tax money and therefore relies on grants, special events, and individual donations for approximately 45% of operational revenue.

The Indiana Achievement Award is the latest recognition for WonderLab, which also was named one of the top 25 science museums in the United States by Parents magazine in September. The museum, which opened in 2003 and is now an anchor destination in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD), anticipates record-breaking attendance in 2008. More information is available online at wonderlab.org.

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