



**PROJECT EXPLORATION**  
950 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
tel. 773.834.7614  
fax. 773.834.7625  
[www.projectexploration.org](http://www.projectexploration.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01am, March 19, 2007

#### CONTACT

Kevin Eisenmann  
Project Exploration  
tel. 773.834.7603  
cell 319.431.9828  
[keisenmann@projectexploration.org](mailto:keisenmann@projectexploration.org)

### **CITY PARTNERS WITH PROJECT EXPLORATION TO RELEASE SUMMER SCIENCE GUIDE—FIRST INITIATIVE OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION TO ENGAGE URBAN YOUTH WITH SCIENCE**

Chicago, March 19, 2007—The first initiative of its kind in the nation, the City of Chicago today released a summer science opportunities guide to encourage the engagement of middle- and high-school students in science. *Discover Your Summer* highlights more than 60 local, regional, and national science programs and offers tips for successful applications and interviews. More than 3,500 copies of the guide will be distributed throughout all Chicago Public middle and high schools and placed in Chicago Public Libraries. The guide was created by Project Exploration, a Chicago-based nonprofit science education organization committed to ensuring that minority youth and girls achieve in science.

*Discover Your Summer* is being released as national attention is focused on science achievement by urban youth. This past November, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, often known as the “nation’s report card,” reported Chicago’s white, black, and Hispanic students scored lower than their counterparts in big cities across the country; African-American students came in either last or second-to-last when compared with blacks tested in other big cities, including New York and Cleveland.

The release of *Discover Your Summer* is the second city-wide initiative in six months designed to engage the public in science. This past September the city hosted Chicago Science Expedition, a two-week festival of science-related events across the Chicago area.

“We’re excited to be able to offer this innovative resource in partnership with Project Exploration—and particularly about the long-term possibilities of working together to strengthen kids’ ability to succeed in—and pursue—science,” said Mike Lach, acting chief officer of mathematics and science for the Chicago Public Schools.

University of Chicago paleontologist Dr. Paul Sereno, an Explorer in Residence with National Geographic and cofounder of Project Exploration, underscored the importance summer science programs have to encourage youth to pursue science. “I credit summer programs provided by the Naperville Park District for sparking my own interest in science. Sometimes informal science education programs reach students in ways that formal settings don’t. The more we can do to help urban students connect with these opportunities the better,” said Sereno, discoverer of the world’s largest crocodile, SuperCroc.

“Project Exploration’s experience delivering science youth programs in Chicago provides evidence that it

is possible to engage low-income urban youth with science in ways that can change their lives,” said Gabrielle Lyon, executive director and cofounder of Project Exploration.

*Discover Your Summer* will be available for free online at [www.projectexploration.org](http://www.projectexploration.org) beginning on March 19, 2007.

Project Exploration is a non-profit science education organization working to make science accessible to the public—especially minority youth and girls—through personalized experiences with science and scientists. [www.projectexploration.org](http://www.projectexploration.org)

###

EDUCATION • EXHIBITS • DISCOVERY

