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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PROJECT EXPLORATION HIRES NEW SENIOR DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Project Exploration has hired Christian Greer as the new Senior Director of Teaching and Learning. Greer will lead Project Exploration in its initiative to build pathways into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers for students from populations traditionally overlooked by science. The “pathways” program will create a cluster of complementary programs that offer students ongoing opportunities to explore scientific disciplines in-depth alongside scientists, while also developing the skills and experiences needed to find their way into and through science post-high school.

“I feel like I can relate to the students that Project Exploration serves. As a kid growing up on the South Side of Chicago, I had an insatiable appetite for science, but I had little understanding of the pathways needed to pursue science,” says Greer. “In my new position at Project Exploration, I can make an impact on students who are a lot like I was when I was a kid—energetic and interested in science.”

Prior to joining Project Exploration, Christian served as the Senior Director of Education at the Shedd Aquarium for seven years, where he directed strategic planning, program management, and partnerships for the education department. Christian has also worked as adjunct faculty at Western Illinois University, teaching zoo and aquarium leadership and management, and taught science courses to Chicago Public School students at Daley College. Christian holds a master’s degree in educational technology from Pepperdine University and a bachelor’s in physics from Morehouse College. He was named a Chicago Community Trust Fellow in 2009 and recently completed the Kellogg Executive Scholar program in Nonprofit Management at Northwestern University

“Christian’s passion for educational equity and his knowledge of Chicago’s science landscape are tremendous assets for our mission” says Cofounder and Executive Director Dr. Gabrielle Lyon. “We’re thrilled to have him on board to help us take our work to the next level.”

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### **About Project Exploration**

Project Exploration works to ensure communities traditionally overlooked by science—particularly minority youth and girls—have access to personalized experiences with science and scientists. At the heart of this work are youth programs, which impact the lives of hundreds of students each year by fostering a long-term interest in science. Students in Project Exploration’s expedition programs graduate high school at a 95% rate and are three times more likely to enroll in a four-year college than their peers; over one third major in science once in college. At a time when four out of five jobs require science and technology skills, Project Exploration provides a new model for engaging and retaining today’s youth in science and technology. In recognition of this work, Project Exploration received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in 2009.

For more information about how Project Exploration is changing the face of science, visit [www.projectexploration.org](http://www.projectexploration.org).

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