

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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duffy@goffpublic.com**More than 5,000 Dakota County students participate in
Science Museum of Minnesota field trips and assemblies**

Dakota County, Minn. – More than 5,000 elementary school students from 30 schools in Dakota County are learning to think like scientists and engineers this year through assemblies and field trips provided by the Science Museum of Minnesota. This opportunity is part of the *Experience Science* program, a partnership between the Science Museum and Flint Hills Resources that began in 1998.

The field trips and assemblies fulfill academic standards in science and engineering and complement what is being learned in the classroom. During the assemblies, instructors from the Science Museum use interactive models to show examples of real-world engineering problems and help students think through the process of solving them. Schools can choose assemblies about dinosaurs, water or engineering. On the field trips to the Science Museum, students learn how to combine math, science, creativity and curiosity to effectively think like engineers. Students are challenged to consider how museum exhibits are made, what materials were used to build them, and what problems were likely solved along the way.

“The *Experience Science* program is engaging Minnesota’s future engineers and scientists,” said Alison Rempel Brown, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota. “We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with Flint Hills Resources, which allows so many students in our community to experience science and gain an understanding and passion for STEM-related careers and subject matter.”

2018 is the “Year of the Engineer” at the Science Museum. The museum’s goal is to provide engineering-related experiences to more than one million people – reaching all 87 Minnesota counties – throughout the year.

“Our region needs more scientists and engineers, and we are grateful for the Science Museum’s commitment to help ignite a spark in kids at a young age,” said Heather Rein, director of community affairs at Flint Hills Resources. “As an employer of hundreds of scientists and engineers, Flint Hills Resources is proud to support programs that help inspire a future workforce full of passionate, science-focused leaders.”

[Click here](#) to download a photo of students from Cedar Park Elementary School in Apple Valley participating in an *Experience Science* assembly.

Elementary schools participating in the 2017-2018 *Experience Science* program include: Christa McAuliffe, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pinecrest, and Kennedy (Hastings); Greenleaf, Diamond Path, Cedar Park STEM, Highland, Southview, and Westview (Apple Valley); Pine Bend and Salem Hills (Inver Grove Heights); Pinewood Community, Northview, Oak Ridge, Deerwood, Woodland, Thomas Lake, Glacier Hills, and Red Pine (Eagan); Rosemount, St. Joseph School, Parkview, and Shannon Park (Rosemount); St. John the Baptist (Vermillion), Echo Park (Burnsville), Kaposia Education Center, and Lincoln Center (South St. Paul); Hilltop (Grove Heights); and East Lake (Lakeville).

About the Science Museum of Minnesota

The Science Museum of Minnesota is one of the state's oldest and best-known cultural institutions, with a history dating back to 1907. The museum serves hundreds of thousands of people each year with a combination of cutting-edge technology, high-tech entertainment, and a world-class collection of fossils and artifacts spanning billions of years of the earth's history. The Science Museum uses fun, innovative programs to help break down barriers in education and help everyone realize that they can be a scientist. The Science Museum of Minnesota consistently places first in Twin Cities rankings for favorite museums, favorite family outings, and best date nights. For more information, visit simm.org.

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota's gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a capacity of 339,000 barrels per day and is among the cleanest, most efficient, and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion on upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the company is available at pinebendrefinery.com.

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