



## News Release

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### **More than 5,000 Dakota County Students Participate in Science Museum of Minnesota Field Trips and Assemblies**

**Dakota County, Minn.** – More than 5,000 second-and fourth-grade students from 29 Dakota County schools are learning to think like scientists and engineers this year through assemblies and field trips provided by the Science Museum of Minnesota. It's part of the *Experience Science* program, an 18-year partnership between the Science Museum of Minnesota and Flint Hills Resources.

“We are fortunate to partner with Flint Hills Resources to provide this program for children in our community,” said John Stanoch, Interim President of the Science Museum of Minnesota. “The future of our economy is in STEM fields, and the *Experience Science* program is helping to equip a new generation with the tools they need to innovate in a world where scientific literacy is critical.”

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. During their trips to the museum, students learn how to combine math, science, creativity and curiosity to effectively think like engineers. Students are challenged to consider how museum exhibits were made, what materials were used to build them, and what problems were likely solved along the way.

The *Experience Science* program is designed to enhance student interest and fulfill academic standards in science and engineering. Minnesota schools are required to incorporate specific engineering material into curricula to prepare students for jobs of the future. *Experience Science* helps schools fulfill the standards in a hands-on way that is fun and engaging for students. Flint Hills Resources employs hundreds of Minnesota engineers and has a vested interest in the future of engineering in the Twin Cities.

“We see the *Experience Science* program as an investment in our future,” said Geoff Glasrud, vice president and manufacturing manager at the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery. “As a high-tech manufacturer that employs hundreds of engineers and skilled workers, we want to do everything we can to provide our young neighbors with opportunities to take an interest in STEM topics.”

The 2015-2016 *Experience Science* program started in December and runs through April. Participating schools include Red Pine, Northview, Pinewood, Oak Ridge, Deerwood, Glacier Hills, Thomas Lake, and Woodland (Eagan); Rosemount, Shannon Park, St. Joseph Catholic School, and Parkview (Rosemount); Pinecrest, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Christa McAuliffe, and Kennedy (Hastings); Echo Park (Burnsville); Highland, Cedar Park, Westview, Southview, Greenleaf, and Diamond Path (Apple Valley); Pine Bend, Hilltop, and Salem Hills (Inver Grove Heights); Lincoln Center and Kaposia (South Saint Paul); and St. John the Baptist (Vermillion).

### **About the Science Museum of Minnesota**

The Science Museum of Minnesota is the Upper Midwest's most popular museum, inspiring more than one million people each year to explore their changing world through science. Among the nation's largest and most-esteemed science museums, the Science Museum of Minnesota conducts research, collects artifacts, produces and distributes exhibits and giant screen films, and offers educational programs for all ages. For more information, call (651) 221-9444 or visit [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org).

### **About Flint Hills Resources**

Flint Hills Resources, LLC, through its subsidiaries, is an industry leader in refining, chemicals and biofuels, with operations primarily in Texas and the Midwest. Its manufacturing capability is built upon six decades of refining experience, and the company has expanded its operations through capital projects and acquisitions worth more than \$11 billion since 2002. Flint Hills Resources' subsidiaries produce and market gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, asphalt, ethanol, biodiesel, liquefied natural gas, olefins, polymers, intermediate chemicals, as well as base oils, corn oil, and dried distillers grain. The company is based in Wichita, Kansas, and its more than 5,000 employees strive to create value for customers and society. More information about the company is available at [www.pinebendrefinery.com](http://www.pinebendrefinery.com).

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