



Media Contact: Shannon Mackie
Michigan Science Center
313.577.8400, ext. 437
Shannon.Mackie@Mi-Sci.org

Shelly Otenbaker
WayPoint Marketing Communications
248.506.6696
shelly@waypointmc.com

MICHIGAN SCIENCE CENTER LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO BOOST M-STEP TEST SCORES

New M-STEP Prep Days excite and engage students preparing for the new and rigorous statewide standardized test.

Detroit, Jan. XX, 2016 – In 2015, only 12 percent of Michigan fourth graders passed the science portion of the state’s new standardized test, the M-STEP. This year, the Michigan Science Center has created a new program that complements the statewide effort to boost M-STEP science and math scores.

The M-STEP, which stands for Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, replaced the 44-year-old MEAP test last year. The M-STEP, based on Common Core Standards, is far more rigorous than the MEAP. The test also is interactive, expanding the MEAP’s multiple-choice format and requiring students to answer fill in the blank questions, create graphs, complete performance tasks and more.

As a hub for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in the state of Michigan, the Michigan Science Center has created M-STEP Prep Days to enhance classroom programming, support teachers statewide, and to boost students’ confidence on test day

“M-STEP Prep Days will actually get kids excited to show off what they know,” said Seun Phillips, vice president of Education and Engagement, Michigan Science Center. “Our dynamic shows and experiments will help students retain key science and math concepts and will reinforce the interactive nature of the test. This is just one of the ways we support our teachers and schools as education partners.”

- more -



Designed for fourth and seventh graders, M-STEP Prep Days will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. Programming is aligned to M-STEP science topics and is focused on math, chemistry, earth, life and physical sciences. Students will rotate through engaging shows on the Chrysler Science Stage, awe-inspiring presentations in the Dassault Systèmes Planetarium and electrifying hands-on experimentation stations, all led by Science Center experts and educators.

Available dates for fourth graders are Feb. 22, Feb, 29, March 7 and March 21. Available dates for seventh graders are March 8 and 22. Cost is \$10 per student. Chaperones meeting the 1-10 student ratio receive free admission. M-STEP Prep Days programs can be reserved by calling 313.577.8400, Option 5, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

About the Michigan Science Center

The Michigan Science Center is a hands-on museum that inspires curious minds of all ages to discover, explore and appreciate science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in a creative, dynamic learning environment. The Science Center features five theaters, including Michigan's largest screen at the Chrysler IMAX[®] *Dome* Theatre; the Dassault Systèmes Planetarium; the Toyota Engineering 4D Theater; the DTE Energy Sparks Theater; the Chrysler Science Stage; a 9,800 square-foot Traveling Science Hall for special exhibits; hands-on exhibit galleries focusing on space, life and physical science; Kids Town just for pint-size scientists; along with, education and outreach programs. The Michigan Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, please call 313.577.8400 or visit the website, www.Mi-Sci.org.

###