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Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the Motorola Foundation Partner to Inspire Tomorrow's Innovators

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Awarded Innovation Generation Grant

SAN DIEGO, CA – June 25, 2009 – The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, today announced it has received a \$51,000 *Innovation Generation* grant from the Motorola Foundation for the its SciTech University program.

The Motorola Foundation's *Innovation Generation* grants support programs that engage students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to build the confidence and skills they need for success both now and in the long-term. In 2009, the Motorola Foundation is providing \$5 million in grants to support out-of-school programming, teacher training, curriculum development and other programs that spark students' interest in STEM.

The Fleet's SciTech University inspires interest and participation in science and math activities among underserved girls in San Diego-area schools through project-based classes that help them to make concrete connections to everyday life as they develop creative thinking and problem solving skills.

More than 75 girls from three local elementary schools participated in the program during the 2008-2009 academic year. With additional funding from the Motorola Foundation, the program will expand to two additional school sites during 2009-2010 school year. Ten two-week classes will be offered at each of these school sites. Girls may attend all ten classes, or they can sign up for specific topics that interest them most.

Classes adhere to a project-based format, with every four sessions focusing on a different scientific project or challenge. This format has proven successful because it allows for the integration of science with other subject areas. The girls are able to make concrete connections to everyday life, and develop creative thinking and problem solving skills. Yearly field trips to local ecological reserves, engineering facilities, and/or biotechnology companies further solidify the real world

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connections, while also making participants aware of STEM career opportunities. All classes are taught by the Fleet's science education staff, with input and collaboration from classroom teachers at each of the sites.

By engaging San Diego area girls in science and math activities, the Fleet is working with the Motorola Foundation to increase access to STEM education and equip students for successful futures. Introducing students to the real-world application of concepts they learn in the classroom strengthens problem-solving skills, increases knowledge retention and opens their eyes to the possibilities associated with pursuing careers in those fields.

"Innovation Generation programs make science and math both real and fun for today's students, bringing to life what they hear from their teachers every day," said Eileen Sweeney, director of the Motorola Foundation. "The work the Fleet Science Center is doing to engage students in these subjects will help our next generation to succeed in a global, knowledge-based economy where critical thinking is no longer just a benefit, but a necessity."

This year, Motorola will convene its grantees at the first annual *Innovation Generation* Conference. The Fleet will join dozens of other grantees to share best practices and cultivate the collaborative learning environment necessary to harness students' curiosity about STEM.

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About the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

With exhibits to touch, IMAX[®] films to watch and motion simulator rides to experience, the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center ("the Fleet") offers an educational, entertaining experience for visitors of all ages. Located at 1875 El Prado, two blocks south of the San Diego Zoo on Park Blvd, the Fleet is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the public understanding and enjoyment of science and technology. For information regarding current admission prices, please call (619) 238-1233 or visit www.rhfleet.org.

About the Motorola Foundation

The Motorola Foundation is the charitable and philanthropic arm of Motorola. With employees

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located around the globe, Motorola seeks to benefit the communities where it operates. The company achieves this by making strategic grants, forging strong community partnerships, fostering innovation and engaging stakeholders. The Motorola Foundation focuses its funding on education, especially science, technology, engineering and math programming. For more information, on Motorola Corporate and Foundation giving, visit www.motorola.com/giving.

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