

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 25, 2017

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## **More than 4,000 Dakota County Students Participate in Science Museum of Minnesota Field Trips and Assemblies**

**Dakota County, Minn.** – More than 4,000 second- and fourth-grade students from 23 elementary 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 2016-2017 *Experience Science* program began in November 2016 and runs through February 2017. It fulfills academic standards in science and engineering in a way that is fun for students.

“The *Experience Science* program engages the tomorrow’s leaders with STEM concepts and makes curious kids excited to innovate in a world where scientific literacy is critical,” said Alison Rempel Brown, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota. “We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with Flint Hills Resources which allows thousands of students in our community to experience science.”

During the *Experience Science* 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 between assemblies about dinosaurs, water or engineering. [Click here](#) to view a photo of students at Cedar Park Elementary School in Apple Valley participating in a recent assembly.

On the *Experience Science* 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 were made, what materials were used to build them, and what problems were likely solved along the way.

“As a high-tech manufacturer, Flint Hills Resources wants to help create exciting opportunities for future scientists and engineers,” said Heather Rein, director of community affairs at Flint Hills Resources. “The Science Museum is incredible at engaging

kids, and we are thankful to partner with them to present the *Experience Science* program to provide our young neighbors with opportunities to explore STEM topics."

Elementary schools participating in the 2016-2017 *Experience Science* program include: Cedar Park STEM, Diamond Path, Greenleaf, Southview and Westview (Apple Valley); Echo Park (Burnsville); Deerwood, Northview, Oak Ridge, Pinewood, Red Pine, Thomas Lake and Woodland (Eagan); Christa McAuliffe, Kennedy and Pinecrest (Hastings); Hilltop and Pine Bend (Inver Grove Heights); Rosemount, Shannon Park, and St. Joseph's Catholic School (Rosemount); Kaposia Education Center (South St. Paul); and St. John the Baptist School (Vermillion).

#### **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 [smm.org](http://smm.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 1,300 full-time employees, 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](http://pinebendrefinery.com).

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