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THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE AND THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA FORM STEM EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

CFGP PROVIDES $111,000 IN FUNDING FOR 17 SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT STEM ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES FOR MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS AT PHILADELPHIA-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Philadelphia, PA January 21, 2016—The Franklin Institute has partnered with The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia (CFGP) to support the development and implementation of a unique science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) school partnership designed to serve more than 1,000 students and their teachers in 17 Catholic grade schools across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 2016. From a gift on behalf of the James and Agnes Kim Family Fund of CFGP, $111,000 in grant funding will make this partnership possible. The partnership will leverage The Franklin Institute’s permanent and special exhibitions, signature live science shows, existing STEM-based programs, and expert in-house STEM educators—all of which have garnered national acclaim and recognition.

The funding will provide a range of opportunities both in and out of the classroom including a field trip to The Franklin Institute that incorporates a tour of the special exhibition Vatican Splendors and teacher access to an accompanying digital educator guide, museum exploration, a Planetarium show, a hands-on science activity workshop, transportation, lunch, two Traveling Science Show visits per school this year, transportation to the Philadelphia Science Festival Carnival for students and families, and two workshops taking place at each school facilitated by The Franklin Institute’s STEM educators, as well as program supplies and evaluation. The selected schools are Drexel Neumann Academy, the GESU School, and the Independence Mission School’s network consisting of 15 Catholic grade schools across Philadelphia. The program will be available to all 7-8 grade students in these schools.

“We are extremely thankful to The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia for their support and belief in the mission of The Franklin Institute,” said Larry Dubinski, President & CEO of The Franklin Institute. “This STEM school partnership will provide a number of opportunities for so many students in Philadelphia to experience science in an informal, educational, and engaging manner and hopefully spark an interest in pursuing further study of STEM fields, and eventually even a career path in STEM.”

“We could not be more proud to help make this happen. The Franklin Institute is a leader in making education come to life, and is such a value to have in our backyard. I couldn’t thank the Kim Family enough for supporting this exciting effort through our foundation for so many kids,” said Shannon J. Jordan, Executive Director of The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia.
“My family has always been interested in making a meaningful, impactful contribution with our giving. We are delighted to have used our funds at The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia for something innovative like this partnership. Without the foundation and their connections to all of the organizations involved our family wouldn’t have had the opportunity to do something like this. We hope that other families can work with the foundation in a similar way for their charitable giving,” said Ms. Susan Kim, Director of the James and Agnes Kim Foundation.

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania’s most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu.