



PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Stefanie Santo, ssanto@fi.edu | 215.448.1152

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE AND BRASKEM LAUNCH NEW DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP

The partnership will support both organization's mission to encourage diversity and inclusion through science and technology in the Philadelphia area.

PHILADELPHIA September 13, 2018—The Franklin Institute is pleased to announce that longtime partner **Braskem**, the leading producer of biopolymers in the world, has been named the official Diversity and Inclusion Partner of The Franklin Institute.

Through this new integrated partnership, the two organizations will join forces to encourage diversity and inclusion through programs including the annual Color of Science, Women in Science, and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on September 29—as well as further events soon to be announced. These programs are designed to help shape a more vibrant and inclusive vision of STEM for the 21st Century and include hands-on activities, special workshop offerings, as well as opportunities for one-on-one interactions with academic leaders, industry executives, and influential thought leaders.

“The Franklin Institute is extremely proud of this opportunity to cultivate a rich and rewarding partnership with Braskem, one that supports our commitment to diversifying the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math,” said Larry Dubinski, President and CEO of The Franklin Institute. “We are grateful for their continued support, and look forward to working together to help change the face of STEM for the 21st Century through important programs like Color of Science, Women in Science, and Introduce a Girl to Engineering.”

The partnership will build upon a series of past collaborative projects between the two organizations including a 3D-printing technology and innovation initiative in 2017, Women in Science Day in 2018, and the annual Philadelphia Science Festival—which Braskem has been a steadfast supporter of since 2015 bringing engaging content and interactive demonstrations.

Mark Nikolich, Braskem North America Chief Executive Officer, stated, “Our partnership with the Franklin Institute around Diversity and Inclusion marks a significant moment in Braskem’s history, with a goal of making science accessible and welcoming to all. At Braskem, building a diverse workforce and creating an inclusive environment where everyone has an opportunity to be their authentic self is a priority. This partnership with The Franklin Institute, one of the pioneering science museums in the U.S.,

will make an important impact on our future leaders and inspire them to pursue STEM education and careers to continue changing our world for the better.”

ABOUT 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.

ABOUT BRASKEM

With a human-oriented global vision of the future, Braskem strives every day to improve people’s lives by creating sustainable solutions with chemicals and plastics. Braskem is the largest producer of thermoplastic polyolefins in the Americas and the leading producer of biopolymers in the world, creating more environmental-friendly, intelligent and sustainable solutions through chemicals and plastics. Braskem exports to clients in approximately 100 countries and operates 41 industrial units, which are located in Brazil, United States, Germany and Mexico, the latter in partnership with the Mexican company Idesa. For more information, visit www.braskem.com.

Braskem America is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Braskem S.A. headquartered in Philadelphia. The company is the leading producer of polypropylene in the United States, with six production plants located in Texas, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, an Innovation and Technology Center in Pittsburgh, and a new operation in Boston focused on leveraging groundbreaking developments in biotechnology and advanced materials. For more information, visit www.braskem.com/usa.

###