



PNC Grow Up Great Chicago Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW: As the economy transforms into one based on knowledge and skills, practitioners and experts alike have highlighted the need for increased training and resources for preschool science. A study by the National Research Council recognized that providing young children with research-based mathematics and science learning is likely to pay off with increased achievement, literacy, and work skills in these critical areas.

HIGHLIGHTS: The *PNC Grow Up Great* initiative in Chicago leverages the experience of the Adler Planetarium, The Field Museum, Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) and Shedd Aquarium to enhance science education for underserved students in preschool programs operated by Chicago Public Schools and Big Shoulders Fund. This program initiative will:

- **Commit \$3 million** from the PNC Foundation in grants to the four institutions to establish new programs in science for underserved preschool children in Chicago and will include an independent evaluation of the program
- **Leverage the experience of these institutions** to provide professional development for preschool teachers to establish a competency and comfort in teaching the sciences to preschool children
- **Enable experts from the partner institutions to visit classrooms** to help teachers create activities for the children to explore science using their senses and simple tools
- **Engage parents in their children's learning experience** through participation in classroom activities and a series of family visits to the partner institutions
- **Serve more than 1,000 children** and their families in the participating preschool programs in the first year pilot.
- **Establish numerous volunteer opportunities for PNC employees** to assist pre-school science teachers, instructors and partner institutions in support of the programs

PARTNERS & PROGRAMS:

The four institutions will work collaboratively to improve early science learning through professional development for teachers and increased access to community science resources for students and families. The Adler Planetarium and Shedd Aquarium will focus on improving early science learning in classrooms, while The Field Museum and MSI will work together to increase access for families to community science resources. Each institution will host field trips to their sites for students and families. Additional program features of each institution include:

- **Adler Planetarium** – will provide professional development for 40-60 teachers to help them conduct inquiry-based science activities in the classroom; engage parents in building early science skills for use with their children; equip classrooms with durable, flexible science equipment, tools and material kits
- **The Field Museum** – will develop programs to engage families in inquiry-based learning outside the classroom; provide families with Family Learning Kits to assist with inquiry-based science learning; create a handbook for parents to initiate discovery-based conversations with children and storybooks that focus on science and nature concepts
- **Museum of Science and Industry** – will train teachers to engage families in inquiry-based learning outside of the classroom; host Family Science Nights at Museum community partner sites; continue connecting with families through special Family Science Days; collaborate on the development and use of Family Science Kits to help children and their caregivers explore hands-on, fun activities that will inspire them to enjoy scientific inquiry
- **Shedd Aquarium** – will hire a coach and curriculum designer to develop and improve early science learning by targeting pre-K educators; design training materials and curriculum supports such as classroom science corners; host an annual educator forum to help teachers reinforce the learned content and skills; offer visits from the Shedd outreach team

PNC will donate 40,000 of the newly released *"Happy, Healthy, Ready for School – Math Is Everywhere"* activity kits to Chicago Public Schools and Big Shoulders Fund, one for each child in their pre-k programs. The mathematics kit with DVD was created by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street™, for *PNC Grow Up Great*.