

Press Release

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[Editor's note: Photo jpeg attached to e-mail; caption included below.]

Boeing Grant makes it possible for DuPage Children's Museum to help close achievement gap for Title I Schools

(Naperville, IL) – DuPage Children's Museum (DCM) has received an \$11,065 grant from the Boeing Employees Community Fund. The grant was awarded to pilot a new approach aimed at dissolving language barriers in Title I classrooms by using DCM's in-school Learning Labs to help improve math and science comprehension. The pilot program will deploy two DCM Learning Labs – *Wheels, Levers & Pulleys* and *Simple Machines in Action* – in sequence to 300 students in two school districts. Evaluations will determine whether this sequential approach improves comprehension.

“The Boeing Employee Community Fund is proud to sponsor the ‘Exploring Scientific Process’ Learning Lab pilot for twelve Title I schools in the Glendale Heights and Bolingbrook/Romeoville areas,” said Adam Schulman with Business Management, Human Resources of The Boeing Company. “We’re excited about this program and the potential it has to engage children in math, science and technology in a fun and innovative way.”

One of the first schools to benefit from this program was the Bernard J. Ward Elementary School in Bolingbrook. Fourth grade teacher Heidi Brinkman said, “I have some ESL kids in my classroom that don’t always understand the vocabulary when it comes to science terms. These students thrived during the Learning Lab. They found the hands-on nature of the Lab to be stimulating and more appealing than what can be offered in their everyday learning environment. All my students were more immersed in their learning and they gained a deeper understanding of the material covered.”

Title I schools typically have a higher percentage of students for whom English is a Second Language (ESL). Learning math and science concepts is challenging; learning them in a second language compounds the complexities. DCM delivers Learning Labs to more than 20,000 students in more than 40 public school districts and private schools each year. The Museum's in-school Learning Labs help students learn complicated science, technology, engineering and mathematical concepts through hands-on experiences.

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About Boeing Employees Community Funds

Boeing Employees Community Funds is made up of Boeing employees' volunteer contributions, which are amalgamated company-wide to fund grants to local non-profit organizations. Committees comprised of Boeing employees review and select local charities to receive these grants.

In the Chicago region, the 13-member employee committee reviews submissions and evaluates requests from non-profit organizations that are aligned with their mission of supporting education, health and family services.

About DuPage Children's Museum

DuPage Children's Museum helps develop curiosity, creativity, thinking and problem solving in young children via interactive exhibits and programs that make learning fun for children and adults playing together.

The Museum is located at 301 N. Washington Street in Naperville, Illinois, a quick walk from the Naperville Metra train station. Parking is free and the building is wheelchair accessible.

DuPage Children's Museum is a top Chicago-area cultural attraction ...*where learning comes in to play*™! For information about hours, Museum admission and membership packages, visit www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org or call (630) 637-8000.

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DUPAGE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT TO PILOT SEQUENTIAL LEARNING LABS TO TITLE I SCHOOLS – Janice Llereza, Chairperson of Boeing Employee Community Fund (at right); and Chris Barry, DuPage Children's Museum's School Programs Manager



Sumrana and Idtzel, from Bernard J. Ward Elementary School, get hands-on experience in how gears work through DCM's Learning Lab.



Dany, of Bernard J. Ward Elementary School, uses a compound machine to gain a better understanding of scientific concepts through DuPage Children's Museum's Learning Lab.



Daniela experiences how the power of pulleys makes lifting easier during DuPage Children's Museum's Learning Lab *Wheels, Levers & Pulleys*.