



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.

Grow Up Great with Science: The PNC Foundation has pledged up to \$6 million over three years to establish this new initiative to help foster a foundation in science for preschoolers. *Grow Up Great with Science* will:

- **Fund 14 regional science centers and non-profit education centers** in seven states and the District of Columbia to form partnerships with early education centers to enhance early science education. Second- and third-year funding is contingent upon successful completion of prior year's project goals.
- **Provide professional development for preschool teachers** to establish a competency and comfort in teaching science to preschool children
- **Enable experts from the science centers to visit classrooms** to help teachers create activities for the children to explore science using their senses and simple tools
- **Introduce families and siblings of pre-school children to science** through free visits with the young students to the center's interactive exhibits
- **Establish numerous volunteer opportunities for PNC employees** to assist pre-school science teachers and instructors with the instruction and activities
- **Conduct an independent evaluation of the program's success** and encourage the sharing of best practices

Participating science centers and non-profit education organizations

- Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, Washington, D.C
- Delaware Museum of Natural History, Wilmington, Delaware
- Louisville Science Center, Louisville, Kentucky
- Maryland Science Center, Baltimore, Maryland
- Central Sanctuaries (Worcester Collaborative), Worcester, Massachusetts
- Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, New Jersey
- Cincinnati Nature Center, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, Ohio
- California University of Pennsylvania, California, Pennsylvania
- Friends of Tom Ridge Center, Erie, Pennsylvania
- Whitaker Science Center, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure: In support of its science initiative, the PNC Foundation has provided major funding to Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, and its partners to create a multi-cultural planetarium show for young children. *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure:*

- **Follows Elmo, Big Bird and Hu Hu Zhu** – a Muppet from the Chinese co-production of *Sesame Street* – as they explore each others' cultures and travel to the moon
- **Teaches basic concepts in math, geometry and physics** as it provides children with an enriching, exciting and interactive introduction to astronomy and other sciences
- **Is available in English, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish** so that children of various cultures and languages have an opportunity to learn in their native tongue
- **Also travels via *Growing Up Together Under One Big Sky***, an inflatable, mobile dome which features the planetarium show, to early childhood education centers and other organizations where children may not have the opportunity to visit a planetarium
- **Was created as part of a global partnership between** Sesame Workshop, the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, the Beijing Planetarium and the Liberty Science Center (Jersey City, NJ)
- **Received additional major funding from the National Science Foundation** with additional support from the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. Additional outreach resources will include a Parent/Child Brochure, Planetarium Educator Materials and Teacher Materials; all available at www.sesameworkshop.org/sky.