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PROJECT EXPLORATION'S "GIANTS" EXHIBIT TARGETS INVOLVEMENT BY CHICAGO'S KIDS

Targeting Chicago's Youth

Finding innovative ways to bring science to the public – especially city kids and girls – is at the heart of Project Exploration's mission. **GIANTS, African Dinosaurs at the Garfield Park Conservatory, created by Project Exploration**, is the newest addition to Project Exploration's international traveling exhibition program. And for Chicago's kids, Project Exploration is offering opportunities to get close to the science behind the exhibit. Chicago Public High School students will be on hand every weekend and school holiday to answer visitors' questions; the official exhibit website, www.dinogiants.org, which offers free activities and classroom curricula, is designed in part by area students; and family events throughout the exhibit bring scientists and families together to explore the excitement of discovery.

"We believe exhibits need to be available to the most diverse audience possible, so we create as many avenues as we can to bring people in and put kids' curiosity at the center," explains Gabrielle Lyon, exhibit co-creator and Project Exploration Executive Director.

An Exhibit That Inspires Imagination

The exhibit is a unique combination of bones, skeletons and plants. "Ever see dinosaur skeletons walking on water? Ever sit on a bone bench while watching a melting skeleton? Ever see a dinosaur in the trees?" asks University of Chicago paleontologist and exhibit co-creator Paul Sereno.

The exhibit is designed with seven "query stations" that ask visitors to compare human and dinosaur skeletons, to search for teeth scattered throughout a tooth garden, and to even try to piece together an enormous mobile made of pieces of a dinosaur skull.

"The pieces in GIANTS are designed to trigger the imagination. We want people to look at familiar objects – be they dinosaur bones or plants – in new ways," says Sereno.

"Our hope is that not only will visitors have a contemplative, unique experience, but that families and teachers can use the exhibit to teach unifying concepts such as pattern, form, function – and how science works," says Lyon.

Project Exploration is a Chicago-based, non profit science education organization founded by Lyon and Sereno to make science accessible to the public – especially city kids and girls. The organization works in three arenas – youth development programs that provide a pipeline to science careers for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity, services for schools and teachers, and online initiatives and public exhibits.

Project Exploration's long term vision is to create a dynamic teaching and learning center that enables people to meet and work with scientists – and get involved in the excitement of scientific discovery.

GIANTS will run between December 20, 2003 and September 6, 2004. The official exhibit website is www.dinogiants.org.