



*Exploring the World of Science*

For Immediate Release:

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<http://soinc.org/>

### **Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative Holds Second Annual “Build It Learn It Day”**

CHICAGO, IL — February 4, 2010. More than 200 students and teachers from 22 Chicago Public Schools will build Elevated Bridges, solve a Science Crime Busters mystery and get acquainted with native birds at the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative “Build It Learn It Day” at the UIC Medical Center Student Center West on Thursday, February 11, 2010, from 9:45 am to 2:00 pm.

In preparation for the Science Olympiad Regional Tournament at Wright College later this spring, 12 middle school teams and 10 high school teams from neighborhoods across Chicago will work in four 45-minute sessions on signature Science Olympiad events led by industry professionals from the University of Illinois REACT Chemistry program, Texas Instruments, the Cook County Department of Public Health, the United States Forest Service/Midewin Tallgrass Prairie, the Field Museum, the Academy of Model Aeronautics and the Solar Electric Vehicle Company, as well as State Event Supervisors from Illinois Science Olympiad and Sacred Heart School. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Innovate Now program set up a mentor-matching program for the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative (USI) this fall, and business leaders from IBM, Rico Enterprises, Harold Washington College and the Latino Technology Alliance will be in attendance, helping kids and teachers engineer Battery Buggies, perfect Trajectory devices and learn about pandemics in Disease Detectives.

Funding for the Science Olympiad has been provided by a coalition of partners dedicated to the goal of bringing more CPS students into after-school science activities like Science Olympiad, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Wright College, the College Board’s Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) program, the Centers for Disease Control, Texas Instruments, Illinois Science Olympiad, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Innovate Now program. See [http://soinc.org/urban\\_school\\_initiative](http://soinc.org/urban_school_initiative) for more information.

Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

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