



For Immediate Release

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August 30, 2012

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Editor: Please do not delete sponsorship credits in paragraph # 2

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING LAUNCHES *DISCOVER TECH: ENGINEERS MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE*

(Louisville, Colorado) – *Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference*, an exciting new traveling exhibition opening at the **Louisville Public Library** on **July 26, 2012**, shows how engineering provides solutions to better meet human needs and explores how engineers create new technologies to solve problems. The exhibit features hands-on and multimedia components that allow exhibit visitors to interact with exhibit content in a dynamic way, encouraging new perspectives about engineers and their vital work. The project includes a training program for librarians and a Community of Practice network of librarians and STEM professionals (over 300 members nationwide).

Discover Tech, which is visiting eight additional public libraries throughout the U.S., is part of the *STAR Library Education Network* (STAR_Net). This national program is led by the Space Science Institute's *National Center for Interactive Learning* (<http://www.nc4il.org>). Exhibit partners include the American Library Association, Lunar and Planetary Institute, the National Girls Collaborative Project, the National Academy of Engineering, Engineers Without Borders – USA, the National

Renewable Energy Lab, and Quality of Life Plus. *Discover Tech* is supported through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The Project Director (Paul Dusenbery) said that “The *Discover Tech* exhibition will help host libraries and their communities (many in underserved regions of the country) understand the global issues affecting our planet. Through the exhibit, they can explore the National Academy of Engineering’s *14 Grand Challenges for Engineering*, which are the critical issues that must be addressed in the 21st century. The exhibit and programs were created to inspire lifelong learning through inquiry and play. We hope the whole community will visit the exhibit, participate in the programs the library has planned, and appreciate the important role that engineers and engineering play locally and around the world.”

Discover Tech features a number of hands-on activities that engage people of all ages. These include a three-person quiz game that allows participants to explore the engineering process while correcting misconceptions about what engineers really do; and a hands-on challenge in which visitors cooperate to build their own arch structure. At the Inventors Lab station, they can build a variety of electrical circuits. A state-of-the-art, 42” interactive touch table includes an activity called Game Changers that presents critical engineering problems based on the *14 Grand Challenges for Engineering*.

Exhibit visitors can view several inspirational videos showing members of Engineers Without Borders using their skills to profoundly improve the quality of life for communities in Central America, South America, Africa, and Asia. Visitors will also learn about the importance of energy in modern society. Using a hand-crank generator, they can produce electrical energy that can be used to power various types of light bulbs and learn which one uses the least energy to operate. Nearby, the Solar Power station demonstrates the basic functioning of solar energy by allowing visitors to experiment with a light source and a large solar panel.

The Louisville Public Library is sponsoring a number of free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibit. Contact Beth Barrett (303-335-4800, bethb@Louisvilleco.gov) for more information. *Discover Tech* will be on display at the library until September 8, 2012.

The **National Center for Interactive Learning** (NCIL) is dedicated to expanding the understanding and participation of families, youth, educators, and citizens in science and technology through learning research and innovative programs. The Space Science Institute (SSI) launched NCIL to expand its strong educational efforts. NCIL is organized around five interconnected groups: 1) Exhibition Development, 2) Digital Learning, 3) Professional Development, 4) Community Outreach, and 5) Learning Research and Evaluation. Visit www.nc4il.org for more information.

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