



NEWS RELEASE  
September 22, 2014

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## **Bright House Networks Encourages Children's Interest in Sciences and Math with Grants to Seven Afterschool Programs**

### ***Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Experience Mini-Grants Support Hands-On Learning Experiences for Hundreds of Students***

To help support afterschool programs in encouraging students to explore the sciences and math, the cable company Bright House Networks has awarded STEM Experience mini-grants to seven afterschool programs to support visits to science centers and museums.

The grants, which range from \$1,500 to \$3,000, will enable hundreds of students to visit local science centers and museums and take part in hands-on science activities. The STEM experiences will take place in October, as part of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool, organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

Programs that received awards are:

- **Alabama: Birmingham Regional Empowerment and Development Center**, partnering with the McWane Science Center.
- **California: Greenfield Success After School Program in Bakersfield**, partnering with the Kern County Museum.
- **Florida: Brevard County Public Schools**, partnering with the NASA Kennedy Space Center.
- **Florida: Orlando After-School All-Stars**, partnering with the Orlando Science Center.
- **Florida: Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay**, partnering with the Museum of Science and Industry.
- **Indiana: City of Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation**, partnering with the Indianapolis Children's Museum.
- **Michigan: Developing K.I.D.S. in Detroit**, partnering with the Detroit Science Center.

"At Bright House Networks, we understand the value of engaging children in the sciences and math at an early age," said Kimberly Maki, corporate vice president, corporate communications

and public relations, Bright House Networks. “We hope that by providing afterschool students with opportunities to participate in hands-on activities that teach science and math, we can encourage more young people to consider careers in these crucial fields.”

Students in the programs will visit local science centers and museums to learn about topics such as solar energy and renewable resources, the history of the oil industry, and astronomy. They will conduct experiments, build robots, learn about STEM career opportunities, and more.

“We are delighted that Bright House Networks has made these grants available to afterschool programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “STEM experiences can be transformative for young people, sparking their interests, and helping them discover aptitudes and skills they never knew they had.”

In advance of *Lights On Afterschool* 2014, the Afterschool Alliance will release new data from the nation’s most comprehensive longitudinal survey of how America’s children are spending their afternoons. “America After 3PM,” a survey of more than 30,000 families, will provide new information on how participation and demand for afterschool have changed over the last decade and how they vary by state, income level, ethnicity, and more. For the first time, “America After 3PM” will include detailed data on STEM (science, technology, education and mathematics) and physical activity in afterschool. The forthcoming “America After 3 PM” report is funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, The Robert Bowne Foundation and the Samueli Foundation.

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*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

### ***About Bright House Networks***

*Bright House Networks is the sixth largest owner and operator of cable systems in the U.S. and the second largest in Florida, with technologically advanced systems located in five states including Florida, Alabama, Indiana, Michigan and California.*

*Bright House Networks serves approximately 2.5 million customers who subscribe to one or more of its video, high-speed data, home security and automation and voice services. The company also offers a strong portfolio of customizable, advanced business solutions for video, voice, data, cloud-based and managed services. The company is MEF-certified and also recently received the Cisco® Master Service Provider Certification under the Cisco Cloud and Managed Service Program, the first cable operator in the United States to achieve this designation. Bright House Networks also owns and operates exclusive, award-winning, local news and sports channels in its Florida markets.*

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