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Science Center School Amgen Center for Science Learning

Background: Through a unique partnership between the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the California Science Center, the **Dr. Theodore T. Alexander, Jr. Science Center School** works to instill in children a lifelong love of learning. The School, which serves children K-5, is an affiliated charter school drawing most of its students from the neighborhood surrounding Exposition Park. During the 2010-2011 school year, 620 students were enrolled. The curriculum focuses on science, mathematics, and technology as well as language arts, social studies, fine arts and physical education. LAUSD provides administration for the school while the Science Center assists with science and math curriculum development.

The **Amgen Center for Science Learning** is the education division of the California Science Center. Relationships with universities, school districts and informal education institutions enable the Amgen Center for Science Learning to provide quality science learning experiences to parents, children, teachers, scientists and other educators. The Center offers science education through professional development teacher and parent training, as well as Hands-on Science Camp, community, youth and school group programs. Included among these are internship opportunities for teens.

Both the Science Center School and Amgen Center for Science Learning are the result of a master plan that calls for an integrated approach to science learning – one that includes a world-class science center, a neighborhood elementary school and an education resource center – all in one location.

Location and features: The historic Wallis Annenberg Building for Science Learning and Innovation, formerly known as the Armory Building, holds part of the School and all of the Amgen Center for Science Learning. An adjacent building north of the site contains the remaining portion of the school.

Features of the Science Center School include:

- Twenty-eight (28) classrooms
- Six (6) common rooms, with spaces and equipment for group projects within a classroom or between classrooms. Four (4) classrooms connect to each common room
- Multi-purpose room functions as a cafeteria or auditorium
- Office spaces

Features of the Amgen Center for Science Learning include:

- Ten (10) classrooms and two (2) laboratory spaces
- Professional development library for teachers and other educators with state-of-the-art instructional tools
- The “Big Lab,” a 32,000 square-foot space with large-scale experiment platforms that allow students to make observations, collect data and perform experiments