

Sacramento's Discovery Museum to Unveil New Robotics Lab to Promote Science

Robotics Program Will Become Integral Part of New Powerhouse Science Center

SACRAMENTO, CA. – The Discovery Museum Science & Space Center announced today it has completed a much anticipated Robotics Lab that will encourage education in science, technology, engineering and math in the Sacramento region.

The Robotics Lab, which opens February 23, is the first program destined for the Powerhouse Science Center, which will become the new home of the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center in 2013. Located on the scenic banks of the Sacramento River, the Powerhouse Science Center (www.powerhousesciencecenter.org) will be the premier science and space learning center serving Northern California.

Robotics education has become a successful method nationally to help teach STEM topics – science, technology, engineering and math – plus teamwork and even management skills. All levels of students are typically fascinated with robots. Educators have found that teaching with robots provides a new and stimulating way to interest and motivate students.

The Discovery Museum is holding a ribbon cutting for the Robotics Lab on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at its Sacramento location at 3615 Auburn Blvd.

“The opening of the Discovery Museum's Robotics Lab is a major step forward in creating the new Powerhouse Science and Space Center,” said **Sandy Sheedy**, Sacramento City Councilmember. “My thanks to all who pitched in and helped make this milestone possible.”

The Robotics Lab will contain three-pronged programming:

- Full-class, hands-on robotics programming for up to 36 students
- After school robotics club
- Competitive robotics teams for students 9-14, whose schools may not have their own teams

“Our new Robotics program will help put the E in the Museum's STEM education programs. It's very exciting to unveil the first new program that will become an integral part of the Powerhouse Science Center,” said **Beth Callahan**, Discovery Museum Director of development and marketing. “Offering robotics programs will guarantee that more students develop a love of science and technology. The students who are motivated by robotics are more likely to become the scientists, innovators, and inventors of tomorrow.”

The temporary robotics exhibit/facility is the culmination of a group effort by many organizations in the Sacramento region. Otto Construction in Sacramento donated a temporary doublewide facility that houses the Robotics Lab.

City Councilmember Sandy Sheedy was instrumental in finding the cash to pay for hard costs and fees; AT&T provided a grant to purchase LEGO Mindstorm Education robotics hardware; Hewlett-Packard in Roseville donated laptop computers; Rotary of Sacramento painted the walls.

Other donors include: Duran and Venables, Inc., Atlas Disposal, Associated Construction & Maintenance, Eckhart's Manufactured Housing Service, CAPCO, Armour Steel, All Bay Mill & Lumber, Sonotrol, the City of Sacramento, Nolte Associates, Inc., United Rentals, B.T. Mancini, White Cap, and Performance Contracting Inc. Intel engineers and software experts from Synergex are volunteering their time and expertise to assist Museum staff in developing curriculum and lesson plans and assisting with program delivery.

The Discovery Museum Science & Space Center is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2011, and will be marking the occasion with special observations and activities all year long. Much has occurred over the past 60 years in science and the Discovery Museum has adapted both its facility and its way of delivering the scientific message to young children during that time frame.

Not only does the Discovery Museum have a colorful past, it also has a bright future. The Powerhouse Science Center will serve as a model for 21st-century experiential education in science, math, technology, engineering, and space, and be utilized as a field trip destination for pre-kindergarten to 12th grade students from throughout the region.

For more information on the Powerhouse Science Center, visit www.powerhousesciencecenter.org, email info@PowerhouseScienceCenter.org, or call 916 853-0343. Visit the Center on Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

To visit the Discovery Museum, go to www.thediscovery.org or call 916 808-3942.