



Contact: Emma Starr
301-897-5437
emma@kid-museum.org

Date: April 7, 2015

KID Museum and National Robotics Week

Museum Takes Part in White House Initiative to Bring STEM Education to a Diverse Population

KID Museum was invited to take part in the White House Roundtable on Increasing Diversity and Opportunity in STEM education (marking the museum's third invitation to the White House in the past year). In the few months since its grand opening last October, KID Museum has quickly become part of the national discussion around broadening participation in STEM learning to diverse populations, including girls and minorities. In addition to the White House Roundtable, KID Museum, along with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), plans to bring hands-on robotics activities to schools in the DC area as part of National Robotics Week.

"Part of our mission at KID Museum is to bring high-quality STEM learning to children of all backgrounds and income-levels," says Cara Lesser, Founder and Executive Director of KID Museum. "STEM skills have become increasingly critical to success in today's economy."

KID Museum plans to introduce the Raspberry PiBot, a robot car powered by a credit card-sized computer, which students will be able to program themselves. KID Museum, along with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation and USPTO, will visit fourth and fifth grade students at the Cora Kelly Elementary School on April 7, and fourth through seventh graders at Oyster Adams Bilingual School on April 8. Cora Kelly is 90 percent minority, with 80 percent of students receiving free and reduced meals. Oyster Adams, a public school, is 60 percent Hispanic.

Students can explore the PiBots as well as mechanical graspers presented by USPTO. They'll also learn about motors and energy sourcing, giving them a multi-layered approach to robotics and a deeper understanding of complex machines.

The White House Roundtable event includes a screening of *Underwater Dreams*, a documentary about undocumented children from Carl Hayden High School in Arizona who entered their robot Stinky in an underwater robotics competition. Without the resources for expensive equipment and with no previous experience, this high school team was able to beat out sophisticated college teams like MIT and win, proving what's possible for children when given access to STEM learning.

About KID Museum

KID Museum is a new museum in the DC metro region that inspires elementary and middle school-aged children to “explore the world, invent the future” through unique, interactive experiences that integrate hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and math learning with an exploration of world cultures and global citizenship. Families can drop in during weekend hours to participate in a variety of open exhibits and hands-on activities, or pre-register for after-school, weekend workshops, or summer camp. Field trips and birthday parties are offered for kids to experience the museum as a group. KID Museum is committed to serving all, regardless of their ability to pay. Free or reduced price admission is available for low-income families and Title I schools.