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For Immediate Release:

Rochester's First Science & Technology Elementary School Opening August 2016

Rochester, NY: Exploration Elementary Charter School for Science & Technology is Rochester's first science-focused elementary school and the first charter school to open in the city in two years. The school will enroll a diverse body of 175 kindergarten and first graders from the Rochester City School District in May 2016 and serve 475 kindergarten through sixth grade students by 2020. Students will participate in as many as 150 minutes per day of lab-based learning and engage in "hands-on, minds-on learning" at Rochester Museum and Science Center, a collaborator in Exploration's development.

"The idea is not that we are training young people to be scientists at an early age, but that scientific methods and inquiry based learning inspire creativity and critical thinking that can be applied to future higher level learning and careers," shares Dr. Kevin Williams, one of Exploration's Founders.

The intentional partnership with RMSC comprises student access to the world-class resources of the museum, curriculum development, and professional development for Exploration faculty and staff. Teachers and instructors are also provided ongoing professional learning through resident scientist programs and community job-shadowing opportunities.

Exploration promises "Excellence through Exploration" and, in addition to utilizing RMSC to enhance education, community spaces like public parks, natural sites, centers of innovation, and hospitals will foster learning about nature, technology, the environment, and the human body.

Exploration prioritizes positive family engagement; the school building offers family spaces, parents are invited to inform the school experiences of their child, and the faculty will use innovative technologies that support positive, two-way family communication.

Recruiting of students and families will begin early in 2016 and the district-wide Charter School lottery will occur in April 2016. Transportation for students within the City of Rochester is provided. Afterschool academic and enrichment programs will be offered in addition to extended day and extended year programming. Charter schools are public schools and there is no cost to enroll or attend.

Exploration has a preliminary website at explorationrochester.org and the founding Board of Directors is actively recruiting a School Director to lead the school's start-up. Please contact Dr. Kevin Williams for more information at kwillia2@rochester.rr.com or 585-615-7211.

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Exploration Elementary Charter School for Science & Technology engages learners, their families, and the community in the processes of scientific inquiry and the use of innovative technology to develop the social, emotional, and academic tools necessary to thrive in school and in today's global world. Exploration was approved by New York State Board of Regents to begin serving students in the City of Rochester beginning in Fall of 2016. More information is available at explorationrochester.org and the complete application summary is at www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/documents/2015Rd2EESTFACnR.pdf .