



**News Release
For Immediate Release
June 5, 2012**

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Monsanto Funds Challenger Learning Center's "Sprouting Astronaut" Program with \$48,000 Grant

ST. LOUIS—The Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis has been awarded a grant of \$48,686 from the Monsanto Fund to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-based programs to 5th-grade teachers and students in the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

The program includes teacher professional development workshops, curriculum materials, a planetarium and classroom program at the schools, as well as a visit to the Challenger Learning Center to participate in the Center's *Junior Astronauts* program.

"The Monsanto Fund is pleased to support the Challenger Learning Center and its efforts to help teachers be more skilled and confident in delivering Science, Technology, Engineering and Math(STEM) programs and provide engaging, hands-on activities for students. This in turn will strengthen our community and help prepare our young people to be scientists and engineers," said Deborah Patterson, President of the Monsanto Fund.

"The generosity of the Monsanto Fund will allow us to provide meaningful programs that will engage and ignite student's interest in science as well as to provide teachers with skills and resources to help their students reach for the stars," said Tasmyn Scarl Front, Director of the Challenger Learning Center.

About the Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis

The award-winning Challenger Learning Center, located at 205 Brotherton Road in Ferguson, Missouri, provides simulated space missions and other science education programs for schools, scouts and corporate groups as well as for the general public. It features a replica Mission Control center and an orbiting space station.

The Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis is a partnership of the Ferguson-Florissant School District, the Saint Louis Science Center and the Cooperating School Districts and is part of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, an international not-for-profit education organization founded in April 1986 by

the families of the astronauts tragically lost during the Challenger space shuttle mission. For more information, visit www.clcstlouis.org

About the Monsanto Fund

The Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Monsanto Company employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at www.monsantofund.org.

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