



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago's Science Club to Receive National Award for Engaging Middle School Students in Science and Math

Award to be Presented During *Lights On Afterschool* Open House

The Afterschool Alliance and the Noyce Foundation will recognize the Northwestern University and Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago Pedersen-McCormick Club's Science Club program for its success in getting middle school students excited about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The Science Club is one of only two programs nationwide to receive the Afterschool STEM Impact Award, which is being presented for the first time this year.

The award will be presented to Science Club creator and moderator Dr. Michael Kennedy and his team during a special *Lights On Afterschool* event starting at:

4 pm, Monday, October 7
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago Pedersen-McCormick Club
4835 North Sheridan
Chicago

WITH

U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

Chicago Deputy Mayor Felicia Davis

Chicago 48th Ward Alderman Harry Osterman

Chicago 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman

Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago President, CEO James Keane

Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago Corporate Board Chair Craig Martin

Pedersen-McCormick Club Board Chair Craig Richart

Northwestern University Vice President for Research Joseph Walsh, PhD

The Pedersen-McCormick Science Club Open House: A *Lights On Afterschool* Event will include a tour of the club's science lab and other Boys & Girls Clubs programs, so that visitors can see them in action. Built in 2009, the lab gives club members the opportunity to conduct experiments and learn STEM skills in an authentic research facility. Students in the program will be working with high school mentors on Science Fair projects during the open house.

Sandra Ansong, a freshman in the nursing program at Northern Illinois University and 2013 Finalist in the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year Awards, cited her participation in the Pedersen-McCormick Science Club as important preparation for her high school science courses. In her Youth of the Year essay, Ansong thanked club mentors for their personal interest in her academic success, and providing exposure to real-life career experiences.

Science Club is a mentor-based afterschool program that integrates community expertise from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, dedicated teachers from Chicago Public Schools and engaging scientist mentors from Northwestern University to form a powerful educational team. It is made possible by a Science Education Partnership Award from the National Institutes of Health.

The Afterschool STEM Impact Awards recognize outstanding afterschool STEM programs that target students in fourth through eighth grades, serve students from populations underrepresented in STEM fields and can demonstrate the impact of their programs on students who participate.

The Afterschool Alliance organized *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things – such as robotics, Tae Kwon Do and art – and discover new skills. The events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs and to send the message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs. This year, more than a million people nationwide are expected to participate in more than 8,000 events. For the seventh year in a row, the Empire State Building will be lit up on October 17 as part of the celebration.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Noyce Foundation aims to help young people become curious, thoughtful, and engaged learners. The Foundation focuses on a few key areas: expanding opportunities for students to experience hands-on science in out-of-school settings; supporting human capital efforts to develop effective teachers and principal leaders; and investing in models and policy for improving the teaching of math, science, and literacy. The Noyce Foundation was created by the Noyce family in 1990 to honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Robert N. Noyce, co-founder of Intel and inventor of the integrated circuit which fueled the personal computer revolution and gave Silicon Valley its name.