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MEDIA ADVISORY

Denver Academy Hosts Smithsonian Science Training for 70 Colorado Teachers Today through Wednesday, August 3

Who: This workshop will be presented by [Smithsonian Science Education Center](#) (SSEC), the only unit at the Smithsonian Institution dedicated to K-12 science education, and hosted by [Denver Academy](#) (DA), an independent day school that inspires and empowers diverse learners in grades 1 to 12 through student-centered education.

What: The Smithsonian Science Education Center's 2016 Colorado LASER Intermediate Professional Development Workshop. This three-day workshop will focus on extending attendees' content knowledge in Earth Science topics such as Plate Tectonics, Weather and Climate, Space, Rocks and Minerals, Soils, Land and Water, and Ecosystems. Seventy participants from ten schools in Colorado will be represented including public, private, and charter schools: Denver Academy (Independent), Asbury Elementary (DPS), Park Hill Elementary (DPS), Place Bridge Academy (DPS), Girls Athletic Leadership School (Charter), Rocky Mountain Prep (Charter), Conrad Ball Middle School (Thompson SD), Eaton Middle School (Weld), Galeton Elementary School (Weld), and Tavelli Elementary School (Poudre).

When: August 1, Noon - 4 pm; August 2, 8 am – 4 pm; August 3, 8 am – 4 pm

Where: Denver Academy Campus - Richardson Hall, High School Building, 4400 E Iliff Ave., Denver, CO 80222

Why: Participants will be inspired with programming which includes rich content experiences for adult learners, an opportunity to delve into using models in the classroom and tools to continue discussions on argumentation in the classroom to address literacy standards and help to have students reveal their misconceptions in a productive manner. Teachers participating in the workshop receive a certificate of completion and a Professional Development Credit.

Denver, Colo. (August 1, 2016) – Denver Academy is hosting this special three-day workshop of the Smithsonian Science Education Center on the independent school's campus for the first year in 2016. This year's workshop follows up on the Introductory Training that teachers received last summer. In addition to teachers from ten Colorado schools, the following employees from the Smithsonian will be in attendance: Amy D'Amico, Director of Professional Services, Smithsonian Science Education Center; Katherine Blanchard, Program Specialist; Alberto Lopez-Torres, Program Specialist; Tami McDonald, Program Specialist and Colorado Regional Coordinator.

“The Smithsonian Science Education Center is honored to hold our professional development workshop at the Denver Academy,” states Dr. Carol O'Donnell, Director, Smithsonian Science Education Center. “Our collaboration with the Denver Academy to implement the Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) model aligns with the mission of the Academy--a leader in educating diverse learners through transformative, student-centered education. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Blair and Kristin Richardson Foundation who gave the leading gift that has allowed us to bring inquiry-centered science education to participating schools in Colorado.”

About Denver Academy

Founded in 1972 on the maxim that students thrive when taught in the way they learn best, Denver Academy is one of the top schools in the nation dedicated to teaching diverse learners, including those with dyslexia and ADD/ADHD. DA's innovative, proven learning model is based on the balanced application of classroom management, information processing, and academic literacy. Small class sizes of 12-14 students facilitate student-centered differentiated instruction. Flexible placement and several academic levels within each core subject, including Honors classes and advanced coursework, allow faculty to teach to each student's optimal level. For more information, visit: www.denveracademy.org.

About Smithsonian Science Education Center

The SSEC was established in 1985 as the National Science Resources Center (NSRC) under the sponsorship of two prestigious institutions: the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academy of Sciences. In 2012, the institution's name changed to the Smithsonian Science Education Center to reflect its mission: to transform and improve the learning and teaching of science for K-12 students. The SSEC is dedicated to the establishment of effective science programs for all students and has developed and published a comprehensive K-8, research-based science curriculum program: Science and Technology Concepts™ (STC Elementary and Secondary). SSEC supports the systemic needs of schools, districts, and states through their Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) model. For more information, visit <https://ssec.si.edu/>.

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To schedule an interview and/or to attend or take photos of the workshop, please contact Valerie Hamlin, Director of Marketing & PR for Denver Academy at 303-777-5870 x203 or vhamlin@denveracademy.org.

Photos available upon request.