100Kin10 Announces Recipients of $2.4 Million in Early Childhood STEM Education Grants

10 Grant Recipients Will Pursue Projects to Spur Active Learning in Pre-K to Third Grade Education

NEW YORK – Today 100Kin10, the national network training and retaining 100,000 excellent K-12 STEM teachers by 2021, announced over $2.4 million in funding to the 10 recipients of their Early Childhood STEM Learning Challenge Grants. 100Kin10 encouraged all 280+ of their diverse network partners to devise "moonshot" ideas that answer a crucial question to improve STEM education: *How should we support teachers to create active STEM learning environments for young students across the country?*

"To better prepare all students to solve the world's most pressing problems, we need to help teachers deliver STEM content in active ways that support their students' creative use of this knowledge. Increasing active learning – which engages students in thinking, questioning, and problem solving grounded in real-world problems – for our youngest learners is a key part of improving STEM education and building a robust and diverse pipeline of STEM talent for the future," **said 100Kin10 Executive Director Talia Milgrom-Elcott.** "By inviting our network members to tackle the challenge of expanding early childhood active STEM learning through user-centered design and experimentation, we've seen tremendous solutions emerge. It will be exciting to watch the range of solutions evolve and unfold."

This year's grant recipients range from a proposal from the New York Botanical Garden to develop a Mobile Science Tool to help teachers encourage scientific exploration on field trips, to a partnership between the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the DC Office of State Superintendent of Education to support innovation in professional development programs for early childhood educators in DC public schools.

The Early Childhood STEM Learning Challenge is part of 100Kin10's commitment to encourage the use of design thinking and applying solutions from outside fields to solve complex problems in STEM education. The grants will equip these organizations with the resources needed to encourage experimentation and support active STEM learning in Pre-K to third grade education and will help the grant recipients 'beta test' their solutions for up to two years. In addition to financial support, grantees will engage in an ongoing learning community using the latest research in improvement sciences and receive support from researchers and field experts led by the 100Kin10 Research and Innovation Team.

"The American Museum of Natural History is thrilled to be a part of the 100Kin10 community, as we build on the Museum's 20-year history of serving local families in Pre-K science and nature education and enhance our Early Childhood STEM learning and outreach initiatives. Through our participation in

the 100Kin10 Fellowship, we've broadened our Early Childhood STEM network, and are now excited to embark on the design and investigation of new STEM learning opportunities for Pre-K children, teachers, and families through the 100Kin10 Early Childhood Active STEM Challenge Grant," said Jenny Ingber, Director of Science and Nature Program and Family Initiatives at the American Museum of Natural History.

"Partnerships for STEM Identity: PSI^3, a collaboration between the University of Northern Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines, reimagines science and math teacher preparation by pairing teacher candidates with seasoned elementary teachers to co-design and deliver engaging STEM lessons to K-3 classrooms. This Early Childhood Active STEM Challenge Grant will enable us to continue to nurture this program, while also broadening its reach by expanding the number of STEM teacher candidates who are able to improve their pedagogical skills and the number of classroom teachers who have access to rich, age appropriate content," said Wendy Adams, Associate Professor of Physics, from the University of Northern Colorado.

This year's Early Childhood STEM Learning Grant recipients include:

- A partnership between the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the DC Office of State Superintendent of Education to offer professional development to DC early childhood educators, including facilitating teaching lessons at the Museum
- A New York Hall of Science professional development program in partnership with the Bank Street College of Education to help kindergarten and first grade teachers in Queens integrate active STEM learning into lessons
- A professional development program at the American Museum of Natural History In New York that will support teachers in low-income communities in NYC to bring Museum developed hands on learning opportunities to their students
- A Loyola Marymount University project, in partnership with the California Science Center and Auburn University to develop a curriculum kit for kindergarten teachers that encourages students to use design thinking to tackle real-world problems
- A collaboration between University of Northern Colorado and Colorado School of Mines' TEAM-UP program to pair teachers-in-training with elementary teachers to design and deliver STEM lessons to kindergarten to third grade classrooms
- A new mobile science app for teachers and parents to be developed by the New York Botanical Garden to encourage students' scientific exploration in the Botanical Gardens
- An online professional development program from the University Of New Hampshire for Pre-K to third grade math teachers across the state
- An expansion of a summer fellowship from the Silicon Valley STEM non-profit Ignited for second and third grade teachers
- A year-long program from STEMteachersNYC for kindergarten to third grade teachers to help better foster student discussions based on evidence

- A partnership with [NYC Men Teach](#), the [City University of New York](#), the [Lawrence Hall of Science](#), and [ExpandED Schools](#) to launch a program for pre-service and second grade teachers in NYC

To schedule an interview with Talia Milgrom-Elcott or grant recipients, or to learn more about 100Kin10, please contact Fiona Druge at Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com or (646) 755-6126.

ABOUT 100KIN10

100Kin10 is 280+ member network formed in response to the moonshot call to put 100,000 new, excellent STEM teachers in America's classrooms by 2021. Though their pioneering networked impact approach, 100Kin10 encourages multi-sector collaboration and provides the vision and resources to help nonprofits, foundations, academic institutions and businesses meet their ambitious commitments to educate the next generation of innovators and problem solvers. More information is available at www.100kin10.org.