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Chase gives to education

Chase will donate $1.4 million today to two Dallas educational institutions to help make learning fun, stimulating and interactive for thousands of Dallas-area children.

The gifts are:

■ $1 million to support science and math education at the Bio Lab and related educational programming in Being Human Hall at the new $185 million **Perot Museum of Nature & Science,** which is expected to open in early 2013.

■ $400,000 to help fund the nonprofit **Big Thought**'s Thriving Minds summer camp and after-school programs for elementary and middle-school students. Big Thought builds partnerships that allow all children access to quality learning opportunities.

"Chase's investment will help us continue to transform how we educate our children and how we prepare them to be responsive to the opportunities and challenges our communities will face in the future," said **Margie Reese,** Big Thought's vice president of programs.

The Thriving Minds middle-school camp is a full-day program operating at **Fair Park** and select **Dallas Independent School District** schools for four weeks in July. The camp, presented in partnership with DISD, the city of Dallas and dozens of community partners, involves nearly 2,000 sixth- through eighth-grade students.

NICOLE G. SMALL is CEO of the science museum.

Students at risk of failing one or more classes attend two daily blocks of academic instruction and one block that integrates academic study with a project at Fair Park institutions, such as star mapping at the Museum of Nature & Science planetarium.

Chase's gift will also support programming during the school year at several Dallas ISD schools in South Dallas and the surrounding Fair Park neighborhoods. Practices used at **Charles Rice Learning Center** will be expanded to **Frazier Elementary** and **Dunbar Learning Center**. Some programs will address specific campus needs such as parent engagement and mentoring programs.

The Perot Museum's Bio Lab will enable visitors to work hands-on in an interactive lab. Being Human Hall will examine the human body and human condition through the lenses of biology, technology and culture.

Curriculum for the Bio Lab will include exploration of four initial areas: cheek cells, antimicrobial testing, DNA extractions and giant chromosomes.

The Bio Lab programs will directly tie into the TEKS standards for math and science. More than 40,000 students are expected to participate in those programs each year, including those from Community Renaissance Neighborhood areas, specifically in South Dallas and Fair Park.

"Thanks to Chase's generosity, this dynamic Bio Lab will make science exciting and relevant, engaging children and inspiring many to pursue careers in math, engineering and technology," said **Nicole G. Small,** CEO of the Museum of Nature & Science.

For more information about Big Thought, go to www.bigthought.org. To learn more about the museum, go to natureandscience.org.