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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Children's Science Center Celebrates Hispanic Girls' Positive STEM Engagement**

**March 29, 2016 (Northern Virginia)** – The Children's Science Center Lab will be hosting a "Family Fiesta" for children participating in the Latina SciGirls® program and their parents on Friday, March 31, from 6-8pm. The Children's Science Center is offering Latina SciGirls® as an 8-week series of STEM-focused classes specifically for Latina children in grades 3-6. Latina SciGirls® is an educational initiative produced by Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) and funded by the National Science Foundation, that addresses specific barriers that prevent many Hispanic girls from participating in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies, activities and career paths. The Children's Science Center is the only regional organization among 15 other organizations across the nation that are participating in the partnership.

The program is free to the students and includes activities developed by the Children's Science Center as well as Spanish-language resources (media and activities) provided by Twin Cities Public Television. The majority of the 22 girls and boys come from Beech Tree Elementary in Falls Church, and a handful of them from other Fairfax County Schools and Prince William County Schools. Children's Science Center has partnered with Beech Tree Elementary to provide transportation from the school to the Lab every Friday to make this program possible. Dinner is provided for the children each week, along with two hours at the Lab exploring science exhibits, media and activities, as well as interacting with mentors. Distinguished mentors serving this program include Margaret Dominguez, Optical Engineer, NASA Goddard and Alicia Santiago, Developmental Neurobiologist and Latino Outreach Specialist, Twin Cities Public Television.

"We are grateful to our mentors, Twin Cities Public Television, and our generous local supporters for enabling us to provide the Latina SciGirls® program to children in our region," said Nene Spivy, Executive Director of the Children's Science Center. "The Family Fiesta will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate STEM learning with the children and their families."

The celebration will conclude the first 8-week program and host about 150 people. The second series will be held for a new group of children on Friday nights at Children's Science Center Lab beginning September 15, 2017, ending with a celebration in the Lab for participants and their families on November 10 at 6pm until 8pm. Registration for the second program is full, and the Center is seeking additional funding in order to continue this program in future years.

### **About the Children's Science Center:**

The Children's Science Center's mission is to instill a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create and be inspired. The Children's Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall and is Northern Virginia's first interactive museum where children, families and school groups can explore STEM concepts through fun, engaging hands-on exhibits, activities and programs. In addition to the Lab and community programs, the Center is working to fulfill the vision of a full-scale, world-class children's science museum to be located in Dulles, VA. The Children's Science Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at [www.childsci.org](http://www.childsci.org).

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