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Working in the Schools (WITS) and the Motorola Foundation Partner to Inspire Tomorrow's Innovators

WITS Awarded Innovation Generation Grant

CHICAGO, IL – Working in the Schools (WITS), a local literacy nonprofit, today announced it has received a \$10,000 Innovation Generation grant from the Motorola Foundation. The grant will support an after-school program, in which 4th and 5th graders from Holden Elementary will travel to Motorola's downtown office to receive one-on-one reading support from Motorola employees. First funded in 2007, the Motorola program exposes children to the exciting world of science while enhancing their reading comprehension and related skills.

The Motorola Foundation's Innovation Generation grants support programs that engage students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to build the confidence and skills they need for success both now and in the long-term. In 2009, the Motorola Foundation is providing \$5 million in grants to support out-of-school programming, teacher training, curriculum development and other programs that spark students' interest in STEM.

"While it seems so simple, we must not forget that without the basic skills of reading, students are unable to excel in other areas such as math and science," explains Executive Director, Jenné Myers. "Thus, WITS is delighted to partner with Motorola in bringing together two incredibly important subjects – reading and science – in an encouraging one-on-one environment."

While the grant's focus is science-based, Motorola understands the fundamental importance of a child's literacy and reading skills in order to excel in science and math. Thus, they have partnered with WITS to provide a unique one-on-one tutoring program that focuses on reading while engaging students' curiosity for science and technology. Throughout the school year, students will take field trips to several museums and parks while learning from a science-based curriculum.

"Innovation Generation programs make science and math both real and fun for today's students, bringing to life what they hear from their teachers every day," said Eileen Sweeney, director of the Motorola Foundation. "The work [Organization] is doing to engage students in these subjects will help our next generation to succeed in a global, knowledge-based economy where critical thinking is no longer just a benefit, but a necessity."

This year, Motorola will convene its grantees at the first annual Innovation Generation Conference. WITS will join dozens of other grantees to share best practices and cultivate the collaborative learning environment necessary to harness students' curiosity about STEM.

To learn more about the Motorola Foundation's Innovation Generation grants please visit www.motorola.com/giving. For additional information on WITS, please visit www.witschicago.org.

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About Working in the Schools

Working in the Schools is an eighteen-year-old 501(c)3 organization that promotes literacy and the love of reading among Chicago's youth by providing one-on-one tutoring and mentoring. Placing and transporting both community individuals and corporate groups into Chicago Public Schools, WITS strives to cultivate a love of reading and learning while enhancing student possibilities for success. Our simple equation – one adult, one child, one book at a time – continues to produce astounding results. Today, WITS sends over 1,200 trained volunteers into 27 public elementary schools to proudly serve more than 2,300 CPS elementary students.

About the Motorola Foundation

The Motorola Foundation is the charitable and philanthropic arm of Motorola. With employees located around the globe, Motorola seeks to benefit the communities where it operates. The company achieves this by making strategic grants, forging strong community partnerships, fostering innovation and engaging stakeholders. The Motorola Foundation focuses its funding on education, especially science, technology, engineering and math programming. For more information, on Motorola Corporate and Foundation giving, visit www.motorola.com/giving.

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