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**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE TO RECEIVE
NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE
AT WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY**

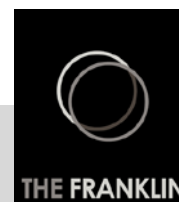
Philadelphia, PA – First Lady Laura Bush will award The Franklin Institute the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries, at a White House ceremony on October 7. Each year, the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), in coordination with the White House, presents the National Medal to five museums and five libraries that have helped make their communities better places to live. In addition to the National Medal, each winning institution receives a \$10,000 award.

IMLS awards the National Medal to 10 institutions annually for outstanding community outreach programs. The Franklin Institute received the award for its Community Nights program, which invites people to stay in the museum after hours and attend special activities and educational programs; its Science Leadership Academy (SLA), an innovative magnet high school created in partnership with the City of Philadelphia; and its Partnerships for Achieving Careers in Technology and Science (PACTS) program that enrolls underserved grade-school students from the Philadelphia area in after-school and summer-based science education programming. Through these and other initiatives, The Franklin Institute is able to fulfill its mission of instilling a passion for learning about science and technology in its visitors.

“This medal award is a wonderful recognition of The Franklin Institute’s success in the service to our community. We are thrilled to create a passion for learning about science and technology in a myriad of ways, and it is truly gratifying to receive such an honor,” said Dr. Dennis Wint, President and CEO of The Franklin Institute.

“The Franklin Institute remains one of Philadelphia’s most-beloved cultural treasures and a paramount educational resource to the area and the country,” said Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania). “As Pennsylvania’s most visited museum, a top-ten science center in the nation, and a national leader in community education, I congratulate the Franklin Institute on this momentous achievement.”

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U.S. Representative Chaka Fattah (D-PA-02) said, “The Franklin Institute is the ‘Heart’ of Philadelphia’s amazing museum community. The Franklin has been the cherished destination and learning experience for every boy, girl and parent in our region, usually more than once. I warmly congratulate the Franklin Institute upon this prestigious, richly deserved award of the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service – and I look forward to my family’s next visit.”

“By its example, the Franklin Institute shows us the kind of influence and impact that museums can have on community life. Through its innovative programs and active partnerships, the Institute addresses the urgent and changing needs of the community it serves,” said Anne-Imelda M. Radice, IMLS Director.

The National Medal awards are made every year by IMLS, the primary source of federal funding for museums and libraries. Each organization will also be honored in an upcoming ceremony in Washington, D.C., and will receive a \$10,000 award. This is the second year that IMLS has awarded medals to 10 institutions. In previous years, the National Medal was known as the National Award for Museum and Library Service and was awarded to three museums and three libraries.

The winners of the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service are:

1. The Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY
2. The General Lew Wallace Study and Museum, Crawfordsville, IN
3. The Jane Stern Dorado Community Library, Inc., Dorado, PR
4. The Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, MO
5. The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New York, NY
6. The Miami-Dade Public Library System, Miami, FL
7. The Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
8. The Skidompha Library, Damariscotta, ME
9. The Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL

Media availability: A community member whose life has been positively affected by the Museum is available for interviews. Please contact Kat Stein at 215-448-2375.

Members of the press interested in attending the White House ceremony, please contact IMLS Public Affairs Officer Jeannine Mjoseth (jmjoseth@imls.gov; 202-653-4632).

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.