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**For Immediate Release**

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**Oklahoma Children's Entertainer Monty Harper Joins the Best of American Science at the USA Science & Engineering Festival this October in D.C.**

- Two weeks of free events in the Washington, D.C. area leading up to a two-day Science Expo on the National Mall, October 23-24, 2010. Learn more at [www.usasciencefestival.org](http://www.usasciencefestival.org).
- **Monty Harper** will present along with more than 350 of the nation's leading science and engineering organizations including colleges and universities, corporations, federal agencies, museums and science centers, and professional engineering and science societies.
- **Monty Harper will perform "Songs From the Science Frontier" on the National Mall. His songs celebrate current scientific research with a strong Oklahoma emphasis.**
- More than 750 exhibits spanning aerospace, green energy, medicine, biotechnology, climatology, robotics, nanotechnology, botany, neuroscience, genetics, and many other scientific disciplines will be free to all.

**Stillwater, OK** - Imagine chatting with Albert Einstein, building an underwater robot, lunching with a Nobel Laureate, or managing cargo in the space shuttle within a virtual reality environment. These are just a few of the many activities planned for the first USA Science & Engineering Festival. Satellite events will be held across the country by universities, student science clubs, national laboratories, and a wide array of other organizations.

Scientists will visit local schools, and many scientific organizations will open their doors to the general public. The Festival will offer more than 40 performances by science comedians, bands, magicians, and many others. Festival organizers hope to have a million people join in across the nation, and the best part—it's all free.

**Oklahoma children's entertainer Monty Harper will be one of several musical performers at the two-day Expo on the National Mall. Harper's program, "Songs From the Science Frontier," covers topics such as wind energy, wheat genetics, bat taxonomy, dinosaur anatomy, and x-ray crystallography. Many of Harper's songs are based on interviews with local scientists about their current research.**

**"Since I sing for Oklahoma kids, I sing about Oklahoma scientists," says Harper. "There's an endless amount of incredible research going on right here in this state - right here in Stillwater! And I'm thankful for the chance to sing it to the nation in D.C. this October!"**

Inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers is a big reason for hosting a giant science party on America's front lawn. A new report by the National Science Board (NSB), says that in 2007 foreign students on temporary visas earned 50 percent or more of all doctoral degrees awarded in engineering, physics, mathematics and the computer sciences.

**“My mission,” says Harper, “is to share my love of science with kids and families who might not otherwise give it a second thought. I strive very hard to get the science right in my songs, but I’m not focused on teaching facts. I mainly want to communicate the emotional core of each subject by telling a compelling story. I want to engage the kids and inspire them to think, to wonder, to ask questions, and to make science a permanent interest in their lives. If I can motivate kids to want to find out more, then I’ve done my job well.”**

Another reason to get the nation's families excited and engaged in science and engineering right now, is because that's where many of today's and tomorrow's jobs will be. The U.S. science and engineering workforce is now at more than 5.5 million and averages a 3.2% growth rate, about double that of the American workforce as a whole, reports the NSB.

The festival is hosted by global security company Lockheed Martin and sponsors include Life Technologies Foundation, Clean Technology and Sustainability Industries Organization (CTSI), Larry and Diane Bock, ResMed Foundation, Farrell Family Foundation, Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Agilent Technologies, Amgen, Celgene Corporation, The Dow Chemical Company, National Institutes of Health, Illumina, You Can Do the Rubik's Cube, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Genentech Inc., MedImmune, Sandia National Laboratories, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), K&L Gates, NuVasive Inc., FEI Company, Case Western Reserve University, Silicon Valley Bank, Bechtel Corporation, SpaceX and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Current media partners include *Popular Science and Science Illustrated*, *New Scientist*, EE Times Group, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, *POPULAR MECHANICS*, *Forbes Wolfe Emerging Tech Report*, FAMILY Magazine and SciVee, Inc.

For a complete list of sponsors, partners and exhibitors go to [-http://www.usasciencefestival.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=57](http://www.usasciencefestival.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=57)

The USA Science & Engineering Festival's creator, life science and high technology entrepreneur Larry Bock, was the inspiration and organizer of the highly successful inaugural San Diego Science Festival<sup>SM</sup>. For a preview of the types of exhibits planned for the National Expo, view a short video of what happened in San Diego at <http://www.scivee.tv/node/12528>.

### **Related Links**

Web Site: [www.usasciencefestival.org](http://www.usasciencefestival.org)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/USAScienceFest>

Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46922645272&ref=ts>

LinkedIn Group: [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=90792&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=90792&trk=hb_side_g)

**Monty Harper:** <http://www.montyharper.com/>

**Born to Do Science:** <http://www.borntodoscience.com/>