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## **Kentucky Science Center to host Paducah Youth Science Summit March 22** *Presented by Lourdes Hospital and Mercy Medical Associates*

**Louisville, KY** (January 15, 2014) – Kentucky Science Center will host the 2014 Paducah Youth Science Summit, presented by Lourdes Hospital and Mercy Medical Associates, on Saturday, March 22 at the Emerging Technology Center at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The event, created by the Science Center’s Youth Infusion Board, provides a platform for middle and high school students ages 11-18 to dialogue on hot science topics, to interact with leading professionals in speed mentoring sessions and hands-on industry labs, and to advocate for advancement in science, technology, engineering and math.

“There is a growing community of young people across our state who are not only passionate about science, but also see it radically changing the landscape of our communities and want to harness that for future good,” said Science Center Executive Director Joanna Haas. “The Youth Science Summit is designed to cultivate that passion and ideation in our community, whether you are a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who loves the physics of video game design or a high school senior who can’t wait to earn her college degree in bioethics.”

The Youth Science Summit began in 2011 at the Science Center’s flagship facility in Louisville, and has since expanded to sites across the commonwealth. The event is focused on generating discussion and new ideas through interactive labs, reverse science fairs and a host of local and regional partners. Beginning with a registration period from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., students rotate from one experience to another throughout the day, ensuring a diverse and unique conference-like experience for each attendee.

As presenting sponsor, Lourdes Hospital and Mercy Medical Associates, Lourdes employed physician group, will also be hosting a contest on Facebook the week of March 3- 7. The contest will provide 10 event scholarships for local students.

“This is such a wonderful opportunity for the youth of our community and we are excited to be a part of their educational journey. These are our future physicians, nurses, engineers, and scientists and we want these kids to have opportunities like this and we are proud to support them,” said Steven Grinnell, President & CEO of Lourdes.

The 2014 Paducah Youth Science Summit, presented by Lourdes Hospital and Mercy Medical Associates with support from Harrah’s Metropolis and the Kentucky Academy of Science, will feature on-site lab experiences, distance learning opportunities with esteemed institutions and include interactions with partners in a “reverse science fair” where local STEM institutions present their innovations to attending students.

“With support from Lourdes Hospital and Mercy Medical Associates, we are proud to present the first ever Paducah Youth Science Summit,” said Haas. “As the State Science Center of Kentucky, providing opportunities such as these broadens the scope of our mission of statewide science literacy.”

The cost to attend the 2014 Paducah Youth Science Summit is \$25 per student and includes a light breakfast and lunch in addition to an event t-shirt. The summit begins at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 4:00 p.m. for middle school students and at 5:30 p.m. for high school students. Tickets are available in advance by calling (502) 561-6100, ext. 6111 or visiting [www.KYScienceCenter.org](http://www.KYScienceCenter.org).

### ***About the Kentucky Science Center*** ([KYScienceCenter.org](http://KYScienceCenter.org))

Kentucky Science Center is a nonprofit educational institution that encourages people of all ages to enjoy science, mathematics and technology in a stimulating and engaging environment that is educational as well as entertaining. Designated the “State Science Center of Kentucky” by the 2002 Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Science Center features interactive exhibits and engaging programs for children, families and adults. Kentucky Science Center is committed to growing a scientifically literate community that investigates, questions, and challenges.

***About Lourdes Hospital:***

Lourdes Hospital, a member of Catholic Health Partners, is located on a 45-acre campus in Paducah, Kentucky including Lourdes Hospital, Lourdes Medical Pavilion, Marshal Nemer Pavilion, Mercy Medical Associates and Lourdes North Plaza, located on Joe Clifton Drive. Lourdes has extended the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of our communities for more than 100 years. The flagship hospital, Lourdes, is a 379 licensed-bed facility accredited by The Joint Commission (JC), which offers Kentucky's only twin hybrid operating room and holds the highest chest pain accreditation in the region. Lourdes offers the latest treatments in the following services: Cardiovascular, Orthopaedics, Women's Health, Emergency Medicine, Behavioral Health Center, Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care, Laboratory and Pathology, Little Miracles Birthing Center, Pastoral Care, Radiology, Rehabilitation, Sleep Center, Surgery Center, and Wound Care. Lourdes has a medical staff of nearly 287 employed and community physicians practicing in more than 42 specialties. For more information, visit [elourdes.com](http://elourdes.com).

***Mercy Medical Associates (MMA)***

Mercy Medical Associates, Lourdes' employed/owned physician group, is the largest multi-specialty practice in the region. MMA provides a full range of wellness-centered medical services with a level of compassion and expertise that comes from knowing and understanding our patients and the community we serve. For more information, visit [elourdes.com/mercymedicalassociates.asp](http://elourdes.com/mercymedicalassociates.asp).

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