Northwestern Mutual Backs 2015 Wisconsin Science Olympiad

Presenting Sponsor of Statewide High School STEM competition in Milwaukee April 10-11

MILWAUKEE, April 9, 2015 – When more than 900 of Wisconsin's top high-school science students meet to compete this weekend, they'll have an important backer: Northwestern Mutual. One of the state's leading employers of IT professionals, Northwestern Mutual is Presenting Sponsor of the 2015 Wisconsin Science Olympiad, taking place April 10-11 on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus.

"At Northwestern Mutual we believe that early education in STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—is crucial to gaining a wide range of opportunities later in life," said Karl Gouverneur, vice president and chief technology officer at Northwestern Mutual. "Through our sponsorship of the Wisconsin Science Olympiad and similar events, we believe we can make the biggest difference in our community and in our future workforce."

Gouverneur is one of two Northwestern Mutual technology executives who will meet and speak to the student competitors, their teachers, and parents. At the event's Opening Ceremony Friday evening, Sheldon Cuffie, a graduate of Milwaukee Public Schools and currently vice president, information systems at Northwestern Mutual, will discuss the positive impact STEM education has had in his career. After the competition concludes on Saturday, Gouverneur will share thoughts on the importance of STEM education, and then will then present prizes to the award-winning teams.

Northwestern Mutual's involvement with the Wisconsin Science Olympiad and STEM learning further underscores its commitment to Milwaukee. This commitment ranges from the construction, development and job growth from the Northwestern Mutual Tower and Commons to investments in education, neighborhoods and cultural organizations and events that significantly improve quality of life.

"In this new digital era, demands are increasing, expectations are ever higher and there will likely be a shortage of the talent we and other companies need," Gouverneur notes. "By supporting STEM education programs, we will be better positioned to capitalize on this trend while providing meaningful career experience," said Gouverneur.

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