

THE ACADEMY  
OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carolyn Belardo, 215-299-1043, [belardo@ansp.org](mailto:belardo@ansp.org)

## NATIONAL MUSEUM ACCREDITATION RENEWED FOR THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY

PHILADELPHIA (December 7, 2011)—The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University has been awarded a renewal of its accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

AAM accreditation is a widely recognized seal of approval that brings national recognition to a museum for meeting and often exceeding the standards and best practices of the museum field. Of the estimated 17,500 museums in the U.S., just 776, or 4.5 percent, hold AAM accreditation.

“It’s a tremendous honor to receive this accreditation from the AAM,” said Academy President and CEO George W. Gephart, Jr. “As we prepare to celebrate our Bicentennial in 2012, the Academy is well prepared to accomplish great things in the years ahead.”

In awarding re-accreditation, AAM congratulated the Academy and Drexel for their historic affiliation established earlier this year and the potential for that union to enhance academic, research and public programs in natural sciences education. AAM also commended the Academy for its environmental research; exemplary care of its public exhibits and internationally significant biological collections; and inclusive educational programs that engage underserved groups such as girls and urban youth.

“By achieving re-accreditation, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University has again demonstrated that it not only meets, but far exceeds, the highest standards for U.S. museums,” said AAM President Ford W. Bell. “This museum embodies excellence, in all that it does and is a jewel in the crown of both Philadelphia’s museum community and the outstanding educational experience afforded the students of Drexel.”

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*Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is America’s oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.*

*HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies! PHONE: 215-299-1000*