



THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

MEDIA ADVISORY * MEDIA ADVISORY * MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR NUTTER, AREA STUDENTS, DINOSAURS AND DRAGONS GATHER TO INTRODUCE THE NEW ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY ON OCTOBER 26

Free Museum Day Features Ceremonial Signing of Historic Affiliation Agreement by Academy and Drexel Presidents

WHAT: To celebrate the completion of an affiliation agreement establishing the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, area elementary school students will present Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Academy President and CEO George W. Gephart, Jr. and Drexel University President John A. Fry with hand-made dinosaur and dragon puppets. A highlight of the day for the students will be the countdown and surprise appearance of the Academy's Triceratops mascot and Drexel's "Mario" the Dragon mascot.

To celebrate the completion of the affiliation, Gephart and Fry also will conduct a ceremonial signing of the agreement between the two institutions, and will unveil building signage which invites visitors to enter the newly named Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.

The Academy also will offer the public free admission to the museum for the day, called ***Academy/Drexel Affiliation Day***, as a way to kickoff the new partnership.

The historic affiliation promotes learning, discovery, and civic engagement in the natural and environmental sciences, creating an internationally recognized powerhouse in scientific research and education.

WHO: Mayor Michael Nutter
John Fry, President, Drexel University
George Gephart, Jr., The Academy of Natural Sciences
Students from the Russell Byers Charter School, McMichael Morton School, and Friends Select

WHEN: Wednesday, October 26, 2011
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

WHERE: 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
**Event to be located in Dinosaur Hall*

PHOTO**OPS:**

- Signing of new affiliation agreement by George Gephart, John Fry and Mayor Nutter
- Drexel University's "Mario" the Dragon and the Academy's Triceratops mascot breaking through oversized banner
- Dozens of local students making dinosaur and dragon puppets
- Academy and Drexel scientists at a dozen activity tables

FYI:

Free individual general admission from 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information, please visit www.ansp.org/affiliation-day

About The Academy of Natural Sciences

Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences 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.

About Drexel University

Founded in 1891 in Philadelphia, Drexel is the nation's 14th largest private university and is ranked among the best national universities by *U.S. News & World Report*. Drexel is widely recognized for its focus on experiential learning through its co-operative education program and translational research initiatives.

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