

October 16, 2008 - Dennis Cardoza Joins NYSD Experiment

CONGRESSMAN DENNIS CARDOZA JOINS 4-H TO PROMOTE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Rep. Cardoza and 4-H Members to Conduct National Science Experiment

during Annual "Lights On Afterschool" Event

Merced, Calif. (October 16, 2008) – 4-H and Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) will promote the importance of science education today by conducting the National Science Experiment during the Afterschool Alliance's annual "Lights On Afterschool" event in Merced, Calif. During this special celebration of afterschool programs, 4-H will recognize Rep. Cardoza for his instrumental role in supporting science education by co-sponsoring H.R. 1390, a Congressional resolution that officially designated October 8, 2008 as 4-H National Youth Science Day.

As part of 4-H National Youth Science Day, 4-H's six million youth members plus parents, teachers, students, and youth organizations nationwide will be participating in the National Science Experiment (NSE) throughout the month of October. The National Science Experiment focuses on the environment and uses scientific principles to teach youth across the country about the importance of water conservation. Youth participating in the National Science Experiment examine the properties of water-absorbing polymers -- long chains of molecules that are being researched for use in environmental applications including agriculture, erosion control, soil management, and environmental clean-ups.

"Science education is vital in helping to shape America's future leaders," said Rep. Cardoza.

"Organizations like 4-H, with the help of Land-Grant Universities like the University of California, are leading the effort to enrich our future workforce by offering unique, hands-on experiences in science, engineering, and technology that truly engage students and show them the potential for careers in these fields."

"Congressman Cardoza's support for 4-H National Youth Science Day is a true testament to the importance of science education nationwide, and we thank him for his dedication to officially recognizing 4-H National Youth Science Day," said Donald T. Floyd, president and CEO of National 4-H Council.

"Congressional support of science education is not only appreciated but essential if we want to continue encouraging youth at an early age to pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology that will in turn help our country remain globally competitive."

4-H National Youth Science Day was announced in June alongside a new public service campaign "One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas™." The campaign supports the organization's long-term goal of attracting 1 million new youth to 4-H science, engineering, and technology programs by the year 2013. 4-H's existing science curriculum combined with these new initiatives will arm youth with the technical skills needed to help America maintain its competitive edge in the global marketplace. For more information on 4-H National Youth Science Day, go to www.4-H.org.

About 4-H

4-H is a community of six million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. National 4-H Council is the national, private sector, non-profit partner of the 4-H Youth Development Program and its parent, the Cooperative Extension System of the United States Department of Agriculture. Learn more about 4-H at www.4-H.org.

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