



## **THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE AND PNC BANK UNVEIL NEW SPROUTING STEM EARLY LEARNING LAB**

*More than 250 early childhood learners attend the virtual ribbon-cutting celebration*

Ft. Lauderdale, Nov. 9, 2020 – The Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) and PNC Bank jointly hosted a virtual ribbon-cutting program to unveil the new “Sprouting STEM Early Childhood Learning Lab,” powered by [PNC Grow Up Great®](#), at 10:30 a.m., Wed., Oct. 28.

“We are grateful for our continued partnership with PNC,” said Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS. “The Museum’s commitment to early childhood is a deeply rooted pillar in our heritage. The Sprouting STEM Lab focuses on our littlest ones making the powerful connection of learning STEM during early childhood. We know from research that science literacy is linked to important skills for young children, including reading and writing. STEM exposure in early childhood helps kids learn how to predict, understand cause and effect and build a rich vocabulary.”

This family-friendly, virtual event included a tour of the new Sprouting STEM Early Childhood Learning Lab, story-time with dozens of children, creature feature and STEM activities with MODS educators. The new learning lab encourages our littlest scientists to find BIG discoveries upon entering the lab, as they are transported to a rich nature-filled instruction outside of the classroom, complete with native plants and wildlife that includes fun, hands-on learning for those younger than the age of five.

“Through PNC Grow Up Great and our relationship with MODS, we have been able to provide tools and resources that help develop curious preschool minds outside of the classroom and include fun opportunities for learning,” said Cressman Bronson, PNC regional president for South Florida. “We are happy to perfectly align with MODS’ mission to inspire visitors through science and pave the way toward a solid future for our local children, their families and the economy.”

The virtual ribbon-cutting program was hosted by Joseph P. Cox and Cressman Bronson, Robert B. Lochrie III, Esq., chairman of MODS board of trustees, Kimberly Reckley, senior vice president, client and community relations director for PNC Bank, and MODS team members. Several early childhood centers also attended the virtual event, including Greater Horizons Academy, Family Center International Academy, Gulfstream Early Learning Center, Head Start Preschool 2, Housing Authority of Fort Lauderdale, Little Acorns Children’s Center, Miramar United Methodist Preschool, New Mirawood Academy and Ramat Shalom.

In addition, MODS launched a new digital library in partnership with PNC. This new online STEM series provides critical learning material for young children from birth to age five and their teachers and parents/caregivers. In alignment with Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards, the series incorporates project-based learning challenges, video content and activity guides available for download or print for this age group. To access the new Sprouting STEM Early Virtual Learning Library and activity guides, please visit [mods.org/virtualsproutingstem](https://mods.org/virtualsproutingstem).

#### **About PNC Bank**

PNC Bank, National Association, is a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC). PNC is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States, organized around its customers and communities for strong relationships and local delivery of retail and business banking including a full range of lending products; specialized services for corporations and government entities, including corporate banking, real estate finance and asset-based lending; wealth management and asset management. For information about PNC, visit [pnc.com](https://pnc.com).

#### **About Museum of Discovery and Science**

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today MODS is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. The Museum's daily visiting hours are temporarily suspended. The Museum will reopen on weekends starting December 5. MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming, which allows us to continue connecting people around the globe to inspiring science - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. The Museum showcases more than 300 interactive exhibits, immersive films, experiential programs and an aviation-themed Makerspace. MODS currently offers virtual and offsite programs including boredom-busting experiences for children, families and adults - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, awesome avatar tours and private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more. For additional information about the Museum, please visit [mods.org](https://mods.org). Like us or follow us on Social Media at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mods), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/mods) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/mods).

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