



# MIND STRETCHING FUN!

About Us



## Fall 2007 Newsletter

As 2007 draws to a close, the Sci-Tech Discovery Board of Directors thanks you for your continued interest and support of our mission to provide dynamic, interactive math, science and technology experiences that inspire Collin County students and their families. We are working to meet the local and national demand to grow our own scientists, mathematicians and engineers. Unlike our years of blockbuster summer exhibits, it's been a year of quiet, albeit high-quality activities as well as one full of administrative building and growth. Here's what we've been up to since we last updated you in the Spring.

Support  
Sci-Tech



Preview  
Exhibit



FUN Stuff



## Summer Sustainability Project

On July 1st area families joined Sci-Tech Discovery Center at Central Market in Plano to welcome Dartmouth College's Big Green Bus. With the goal of educating the public about the issues of sustainable energy, the students made us their first stop in Texas as they journeyed across the country in a bus converted to run on waste vegetable oil.

Participants enjoyed tours of the bus, demonstrations of the workings of the converted turbo diesel engine, and educational games along with music and crafts. The exhibit promoted our commitment to the environment, energy saving research, and mind-stretching fun. Information about the bus and other sustainable energy links are available on Sci-Tech's website: <http://www.mindstretchingfun.org/pages/fun-bgb-links.html>.

Sci-Tech Discovery Center's Board Chairman, Kelly Palmer, said of the event, "This was a great way to increase awareness of a current science topic and promote our goal of building a science museum in Collin County." The future Sci-Tech Discovery Center will provide interesting and relevant experiences and educational opportunities about math, science and technology for families and students of all ages.

## Balloon Fun

In September Sci-Tech participated for a second time in the annual Plano Balloon Festival. In various locations on the festival grounds Sci-Tech posted large banners that provided science facts

in fun ways to educate attendees about the science behind ballooning.

## Engineering Futures Through Collaboration

On October 15th, Sci-Tech Discovery Center partnered with corporate and education entities in the Hi-TECCC coalition to host Engineering Your Future through Math and Science at Williams High School in Plano . Middle-school students and their parents were invited to take part in an evening that featured engineering innovations demonstrating how math, science and technology education can lead to dynamic careers and future success. Exciting demonstrations, speakers, and exhibits as well as college admission and scholarship information were offered. Sci-Tech developed and presented a 20-minute interactive program demonstrating the technology and math behind Global Positioning Systems for one of the break-out sessions.


## Innovation Rewarded

To acknowledge the creativity and enjoyment that accompanies the work of area science fair teams, two Sci-Tech Discovery Center Mind-Stretching Fun Awards debuted earlier this year. Inspired by the work of Regional Science Fair participants, Sci-Tech was pleased to bestow the first two Sci-Tech Discovery Center Mind-Stretching Fun Awards to deserving teams in the Junior and Senior Physical Science categories. Winners of the junior division team, Monica N. and Erin P, are avid cyclists who explored forces on velodromes. Winning in the senior division was Tien D. who chose to explore an ionized air missile destroyer. Each winning team participant received a trophy puzzle as well as a cash gift.

## What's Next

The Board has recently instituted a search for a full-time Director of Development and is working with a real estate consultant in search of 10,000-15,000 square feet of space to use as an interim facility. The Board continues to study industry best practices through its affiliation with the Association of Science and Technology Centers and the Association of Childrens Museums. Various board members also visited other museums: The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, CA; The Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX; The Computer History Museum in Mountain View , CA; The Childrens Museum of Maine; The Science Center of Iowa; Kohl Childrens Museum in Illinois; and The Fleet Museum of Science in San Diego, to name a few.

Sci-Tech Discovery Center continues to work to develop or procure high quality outreach programs and is committed to finding a temporary home for the organization prior to the ultimate goal of building a permanent facility. Community



support is vital to this effort and we are encouraged by the public's interest in our programs.

### Sci-Tech Mission

To provide a dynamic, interactive experience that inspires people of all ages and backgrounds to embrace discovery and innovation through the exploration of math, science and technology.