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Contact: Lori Kiesser
Fund Development Officer
Inside the Outdoors
Phone: (714) 708-3889
E-Mail: lkiesser@ocde.us

Chevron supports student *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)* education with Inside the Outdoors

COSTA MESA, CA, MAY 7, 2014 – In the past three years, Chevron Corporation, with local offices based in Brea, has given Inside the Outdoors Foundation \$250,000 in funding to support K-12th grade student learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs.

Funding received in 2014 marks the third consecutive year that Chevron has provided support to Inside the Outdoors programs, demonstrating the company's ongoing commitment to science-focused education.

“STEM education is critical to producing a workforce that can compete in the global marketplace,” said Hector Infante, manager of policy, government and public affairs at Chevron. “Investments developed through programs such as Inside the Outdoors are also investments in the long-term success of our company.”

Since 1974, Inside the Outdoors has been providing hands-on programs to students across Orange County and in parts of the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County. Our programs utilize nature's classroom to stimulate children's innate curiosity and sense of play to create a learning environment that builds the foundation for students to pursue STEM-related careers.

Inside the Outdoors (ITO) operates under the umbrella of the Orange County Department of Education but receives no tax-based funding to run its programs. Therefore, ITO's foundation relies heavily on the generous support of private funders such as Chevron to keep the program thriving.

Unfortunately, the downturn in the economy has made it extremely difficult for schools to provide anything for students beyond basic instruction. Over half of the students who attend our program are from low-income schools and receive sponsorship to attend. Many of the students have never been beyond the concrete streets of their neighborhoods, even though they live just minutes from the beaches, forests, and mountains that are part of Southern California's many natural treasures.

Manny Kiesser, president of the Inside the Outdoors Foundation board, shared, "Chevron's commitment to education is an important element to ensuring that Southern California students are prepared to pursue STEM careers. Partners like Chevron are leveling the playing field by providing hands-on learning opportunities for students from all communities."

Chevron's funding has provided *S3: Students, STEM, and Service-Learning* education experiences in local Orange County parks and natural areas for approximately **45,000** K-12th grade students and **1,500** teachers. STEM-based student projects impacted an additional **125,000** students, parents, teachers, and community members through peer-to-peer teaching, student-led volunteer projects, and science fairs.



Photo caption: As part of an Inside the Outdoors' engineering competition, local high school students and their mentor to use STEM-principles to design shade structures.

For more information about Inside the Outdoors, please contact Lori Kiesser, Development Officer, at (714)708-3889.

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