



**PATRICIA AND PHILLIP FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE'S CHISPA PROGRAM FOR LATINO CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES NAMED A BRIGHT SPOT BY THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS**

*Addressing the Disparity in Science Achievement, CHISPA Is Now in Its Third Year,  
Thanks to National Science Foundation's \$2.5 Million Grant*

MIAMI – October 2015 – The *Children Investigating Science with Parents and Afterschool (CHISPA)* program, a national collaboration spearheaded by the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science, was recognized as a Bright Spot by the White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanics, and listed in the Bright Spots catalog. The catalog features over 230 programs, models, organizations and initiatives that support and invest in the educational attainment of Hispanics, from cradle to career.

The White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanics' Initiative recognizes Bright Spots in Hispanic education, supporting and/or ensuring access to a quality, well-rounded education for Hispanics.

"We are honored to be listed in the White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanics' Initiative Bright Spots catalog," said Gillian Thomas, President & CEO of Frost Science. "We are committed to ensuring quality, informal education for everyone and our CHISPA program is a great example of our work."

Utilizing a \$2.5 million four-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), CHISPA ("spark" in Spanish) is a national collaboration between Frost Science, National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the ASPIRA Association, and a network of ten other science museums located in cities with growing Latino populations. CHISPA is currently in its third year.

In 2014, over 2,000 students across the nation participated in CHISPA, which helped parents and students learn about community resources, such as science institutions, that they otherwise wouldn't have known were available to them.

Developed by Frost Science, CHISPA builds on the Afterschool Program Exploring Science model, and is expanding its reach to increase family engagement and ensure future sustainability.

By combining the expertise of the informal science learning community and the two largest Hispanic-serving community organizations in the nation, the project:

- Builds organizational capacity of partner museums and NCLR and ASPIRA afterschool program staff to implement CHISPA in their afterschool programs
- Strengthens linkages between science museums and Hispanic-serving CBOs in their communities to increase participation of families of Latino background in museum events and activities
- Contributes to the informal science education field a better understanding of how collaborations between museums and CBOs can be employed to engage more Latino families in science education
- Increases student and family engagement in STEM

CHISPA provides an engaging, hands-on science curriculum, available in English and Spanish, offered by local NCLR or ASPIRA afterschool programs. Parents are encouraged to participate in “Padres Comprometidos con CHISPA,” a series of parent engagement workshops designed to give parents the tools they need to support their children at school and at home. Families are invited to enjoy free CHISPA Family Science Days at their local museum.

Participating museum partners include Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.), American Museum of Natural History (New York, New York), Liberty Science Center (Jersey City, New Jersey), California Science Center (Los Angeles, California), Chicago Children’s Museum (Chicago, Illinois), Discovery Place (Charlotte, North Carolina), Explora! (Albuquerque, New Mexico), The Health Museum (Houston, Texas), Science City at Union Station (Kansas City, Missouri), and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.).

To learn more about the Bright Spots catalog, and the Bright Spots Initiative’s anniversary efforts, please visit: [www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative](http://www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative).

### **About the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science (Frost Science)**

Frost Science aims to make a difference in people’s lives by inspiring them to appreciate the impact that science and technology can have on every facet of our world. The museum will continue to inspire visitors in a new state-of-the-art facility designed by Grimshaw Architects currently under construction at Museum Park, in the heart of downtown Miami. The museum will be structured around an indoor and outdoor *Living Core* Aquarium of terrestrial and aquatic environments, featuring a Gulf Stream aquarium experience totaling over 500,000 gallons of salt water. The facility will also feature the state-of-the-art full dome Frost Planetarium, the Knight Learning Center, *Innovation Labs* and Cafe, Baptist Health South Florida People and Science Gallery, and an *Exploration Center* featuring permanent interactive exhibits: Feathers to the Stars and The River of Grass. Frost Science is supported by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade

County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County. This project is supported by the Building Better Communities Bond Program and the City of Miami. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. Learn more at [frostsscience.org](http://frostsscience.org).