



**PHILLIP AND PATRICIA FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE NAMES DR. LEAH MELBER
KNIGHT VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION**

MIAMI – (May 2017) – The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, located in Downtown Miami’s Museum Park, is pleased to announce that Dr. Leah Melber has been appointed as the museum’s Knight Vice President of Education. Dr. Melber has over 25 years of experience and in her new role, she will oversee the development and management of all educational activities within Frost Science and those that serve the community. The position was made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

“As Knight Vice President of Education, Dr. Melber will be instrumental in maintaining the museum’s role as a leader in informal science education as well as inspiring, leading, and shaping a dedicated team of science educators, thus ensuring the museum’s continued excellence in promoting equal access to science and technology learning for all,” said Frank Steslow, Frost Science president.

For decades, Frost Science has pioneered education programs that promote excellence and equity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for Miami’s diverse community, reaching students from early childhood through high school. The museum’s educational programs focus on key areas, including youth science learning, family engagement to strengthen educational outcomes, educator professional development, and research on innovative science learning technology.

As Knight Vice President of Learning, Dr. Melber will develop innovative approaches to serve children, youth, adults and families through informal STEM education. She also will develop and promote the learning and interpretation goals of exhibitions and the flexible program spaces within the museum to promote new ways of engaging the public. In addition, Dr. Melber will build upon existing educational partnerships and seek new ways to work with other educational thought leaders to advance science literacy. The museum’s Knight Learning Center, funded by Knight Foundation, will serve as a base for these programs, providing schools, families and community groups with a new state-of-the-art learning space.

“From the aquarium to the planetarium, to the state-of-the-art Knight Learning Center, Frost Science is designed to engage the public with advanced technology and dynamic exhibitions,” said Alberto Ibarguen, Knight Foundation president. “Interest in science is a ‘must-have’ to function in the 21st Century and under Dr. Melber’s leadership, hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren and other members of our community will gain a better understanding of our world.”

Dr. Melber has extensive experience in both formal education, as an elementary teacher and as a university professor, and informal learning through museum work and consulting. She previously worked at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Washington State Historical Society, and the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Melber received her Bachelor of Arts in zoology from the University of New Hampshire, a Master of Arts in education from Pepperdine University, her Doctorate of Philosophy in educational psychology and a secondary area of study in public administration from the University of Southern California.

“I am truly honored and thrilled to serve in this new role at Frost Science,” said Dr. Leah Melber. “I have incredible passion to increase science literacy for all learners. This is an outstanding fit for the mission of Frost Science where, together, we’ll endeavor to achieving public understanding of scientific research in the world around us.

Dr. Melber has been awarded the “Distinguished Informal Educator Award” by the California Science Teachers Associations, the “Promising Leadership Award” by the Association of Midwest Museums and the “Excellence in Practice Award” by the Education Committee of the American Alliance of Museums. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and several books, including her recent collection of essays through AAM Press, *Teaching the Museum*.

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About the John S. and James. L Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit knightfoundation.org.

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

Located in Downtown Miami's Museum Park, the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is a leading science museum dedicated to sharing the power of science, sparking wonder and investigation, and fueling innovation for the future. Sitting on four acres, the 250,000-square-foot museum divides into four buildings: the Frost Planetarium, Aquarium, and the North and West Wings. At Frost Science, visitors can explore the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in an experiential setting with interactive exhibitions and unique shows. 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. It is 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 frostsience.org.