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**THE PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM NAMES NEW CEO**

*YMCA Executive Marie Trzupsek Lynch Takes on Role June 1*

**CHICAGO** (May 3, 2009) – After a five-month search, the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum has named Marie Trzupsek Lynch as its new president and chief executive officer. The announcement was made during the 2009 Butterfly Ball, the Museum’s largest fundraising event, held May 1.

“We are confident that Marie’s ability to connect with people within the institution and the larger community with her naturally collaborative spirit will have even more adults and children recognizing the Museum as a tremendous resource in the city,” said Museum Board of Trustees Chairman Charles Douglas. “She also has the exceptional strategic, organizational and financial skills we need in a leader to take the Museum to the next level of growth. The Board is confident that she will chart the course for the continued expansion of the Museum and its programs.”

Lynch comes from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago where she served first as executive vice president of strategic planning, new ventures and children’s services since January 2007 and then executive vice president of human services. Prior to that position, she was director of operations at YMCA of the USA, a senior manager of management solutions and services in the nonprofit group at Deloitte and Touche in Chicago, and an assistant to Mayor Richard M. Daley.

Educated in public policy and a frequent visitor of Chicago museums with her family—the Nature Museum is her five-year old daughter’s favorite—Lynch is thrilled to be part of the Museum’s upward direction. “I’m impressed with the dedication of the board and how far its members have taken the Museum in the past 10 years,” Lynch said. “The Museum’s education and conservation focus and intimate size make it a wonderful place to learn more about nature in the environment. I’m looking forward to better defining the Museum’s identity and role in the broader Chicago community.”

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As president and CEO of the Nature Museum, Lynch will be charged with expanding the Museum's educational reach, including its hallmark interactive, in-classroom program, Science on the Go! (SOG!), which reached out to students in 225 classrooms in Chicago public schools in 2008, representing a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

Lynch will also be responsible for furthering the Museum's mission through increased attendance, contributions and grants for such programs as the Butterfly Restoration Project—all which saw significant gains, as well, last year.

“Marie is genuinely excited to lead an extraordinary and talented team who will together play an integral role in shaping the future of our institution,” said Interim President and CEO Donna Gustafsson, who stepped into the top spot in December 2008 and will help Lynch transition into her CEO position before returning to her board of trustee role, a position she has held for nearly four years.

Lynch will start in her new role as president and CEO of the Nature Museum on June 1.

### **About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

*Celebrating more than 150 years of science exploration and education, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is the teaching and learning center of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, founded in 1857 as Chicago's first museum dedicated to educating Chicagoans about nature and science through the preservation and display of native specimens, classroom activities, and dissemination of scientific knowledge.*

*Today the Nature Museum continues the Academy's tradition of education about nature in greater Chicago, research, and conservation through participatory exhibits and programs, educational outreach, and ongoing scientific activity. Its collections, due to their age and type, are among the most important in the region. The Museum's distinctive experience includes extensive involvement in schools and classrooms, and the opportunities for visitors to learn about nature up close.*

*Since its opening 10 years ago, the Nature Museum has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors and provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,500 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools. The Nature Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. The Museum is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.*

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