



Oakland Fifth Graders Launch into Science Education An Extraordinary Experience Hosted by Chabot & OneCalifornia Bank

February 13, 2009 – OAKLAND, Calif. – Leading the way in the nation’s call to science education, Chabot Space & Science Center and OneCalifornia Bank are treating 180 fifth graders to a day of science inspiration and learning at Chabot. OneCalifornia Bank is sponsoring the field trip, the second consecutive year that the Bank and its philanthropic arm, OneCalifornia Foundation, have provided this opportunity to underserved Oakland public school students. The fifth-grade year is a crucial time to capture children’s interest in pathways to higher education and careers in science and math. Chabot’s mission in science education and OneCalifornia’s focus on financial literacy go hand-in-hand to forge this partnership of community businesses and nonprofit organizations encouraging today’s learners to become tomorrow’s leaders.

The 180 students from five inner-city public schools will ignite their day with a full-dome digital planetarium show. They will take part in astronomy and earth science classes and explore the hands-on interactive exhibits at Chabot Space & Science Center. Local businesses get on board with lunch provided by Bagel Street Café, located in the Oakland City Center. Volunteers from the OneCalifornia family and East Bay College Fund will help in guiding and mentoring the students.

“This is an opportunity for our Foundation to give back to the community we serve. Inspiring students through science and technology is an investment in our neighborhood. It will pay dividends that cannot be measured on any balance sheet,” said Jeffrey Cheung, President and CEO of OneCalifornia Bank.

“The example set by OneCalifornia Bank speaks to their commitment to each person in our society. When you help kids discover the wonders of science, you can encourage them to achieve beyond the limits of their surroundings,” said Alexander Zwissler, Executive Director/CEO of Chabot Space & Science Center.

OneCalifornia Bank opened in September 2007 at 1438 Webster Street in downtown Oakland. The bank seeks to assist businesses, nonprofits, professionals and individuals who have not had open access to fair and transparent banking services. The bank and the OneCalifornia Foundation have developed innovative initiatives to reach out to unbanked and under-banked individuals.

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Chabot Space & Science Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit interactive science center whose mission is to inspire and educate students of all ages about Planet Earth and the Universe. Founded in 1883 and currently celebrating its 126th anniversary, the Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. just off Highway 13 in the Oakland hills. For more information, visit www.chabot.space.org.

OneCalifornia Bank, FSB, seeks to improve economic opportunity for low- to moderate income communities throughout California, starting in Oakland. OneCalifornia grew from the vision of Tom Steyer and Kat Taylor and the team they formed to create a sustainable, effective community development bank. The Bank partners with respected community institutions to provide banking services to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, community facilities, affordable housing, individuals and families. Banking services are integrated with financial literacy, technical assistance and business education supported by OneCalifornia Foundation. The Bank maintains a triple bottom line focus of meeting its social mission while operating in a safe, sound and sustainable manner. For more information, visit www.onecalbank.com