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**EDVENTURE AWARDED 2011 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE
Museum Receives National Honor for Extraordinary Educational Contribution**

COLUMBIA, SC– October 25, 2011–The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has selected EdVenture Children's Museum as one of only ten libraries and museums to receive the 2011 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental and social contributions. Recipients must demonstrate innovative approaches to public service and community outreach.

In addition to The National Medal, EdVenture will receive \$10,000 and a visit from StoryCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving and sharing the stories of Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs. Ceremonies will take place in Washington, D.C.

“Congratulations to EdVenture Children's Museum on receiving the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The work you have done is an inspiration to libraries and museums throughout the nation,” said Susan Hildreth, IMLS Director. “With innovation, creativity and a great deal of heart you have achieved an outstanding level of public service.”

EdVenture, currently celebrating its eighth birthday, is a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to creating new generations of lifelong learners through hands-on interactive exhibits, award winning afterschool programs, professional development seminars for teachers, Museum Apprentice program and 14 standards based field trip programs focused on health programming and 21st century skills.

EdVenture is the only children's museum in South Carolina focused on health education. The IMLS specifically named several EdVenture programs in its recognition of the museum:

- The *Big Ed Health Initiative* program, which is a year-round series of events and activities promoting health education.
- *EDDIE®*, EdVenture's signature health exhibit featuring four levels of human anatomy inside a 40-foot child's body.
- *\$2 million investment in new exhibits*, highlighting the nutritional and lifestyle choices that can be linked to chronic diseases scheduled to open in November 2011.

“EdVenture is honored to be recognized by IMLS with The National Medal,” said Catherine Wilson Horne, President and CEO of EdVenture. To be selected by IMLS from among the thousands of institutions in the United States is a tribute to our leadership, our staff, our volunteers and our supporters who all give of themselves to fulfill our mission.”

The other institutions that received the 2011 IMLS Medal are:

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Alachua County Library District, Gainesville, FL
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH
Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA
Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Collegeville, MN
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA
Madison Children's Museum, Madison, WI
San José Public Library, San José, CA
Weippe Public Library & Discovery Center, Weippe, ID

More Information

[2011 National Medal Brochure](#) (pdf)

About EdVenture Children's Museum

The mission of EdVenture is to inspire children, youth, and the adults who care about them to experience the joy of learning. EdVenture is dedicated to lifelong learning through its 92,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor interactive exhibit space and in its educational outreach programs and after school programs. The museum has welcomed visitors from all 50 states and 18 foreign countries, creating shared experiences and memories for families learning together. For more information about EdVenture, visit www.edventure.org or call (803) 779-3100.

About The National Medal for Museum and Library Service

IMLS is the primary source of federal funding for museums and libraries. The National Medal for Museum and Library Service was created to highlight the vital role these institutions play in American society. Recipients are selected by the director of IMLS following an open nomination process and based on the recommendations of the National Museum and Library Services Board.

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