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## **TEACHERS GET ‘HANDS-ON MINDS-ON’ AT EDVENTURE** **Professional Development Course Assists State’s Teachers in Improving Educational Standards**

COLUMBIA, SC– August 2, 2011– EdVenture, with support from the South Carolina Department of Education, is proud to announce that 150 public school teachers participated in the sixth year of Hands-On, Minds-On! (HMO) Summer Institute for Teachers. This year, the Institute was FREE for public elementary teachers dedicated to sharing EdVenture’s expertise in making science and math fun and accessible in the classroom.

Geared for 4K through 5th grade teachers, HMO is a week-long experience that provides tools for understanding the concepts of curriculum integration with an emphasis on math and science. The sessions took place June 6-9, June 13-16 and June 20-23. Each four-day session emphasized the integration of science and core subjects into regular curriculum through training sessions built around the total immersion concept of inquiry-based instruction.

“Our goal is to teach teachers how to incorporate EdVenture’s hands-on learning approach in their classrooms, said Nikki Manning, director of educational services at EdVenture. We hope to provide teachers with the same great learning experience that they provide their students. Additionally, HMO is making great strides to improve the knowledge base of educators especially in science, technology, engineering and math.”

Teachers received hands-on experiences designed around state curriculum standards, take-away science materials, resource manuals, free hotel accommodations, honorary membership in EdVenture’s Teacher Ambassador Program, innovative techniques and leadership skills.

### **About EdVenture**

The mission of EdVenture is to inspire children 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](http://www.edventure.org) or call (803) 779-3100.

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