

SCIENCE@OC RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE MAZDA FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SANTA ANA, Calif. – September 14, 2015 — Science@OC, the Orange County non-profit dedicated to strengthening science education in Orange County's public middle schools, announced that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Mazda Foundation.

The grant will provide support for Science@OC's partnership with public school educators to improve and enhance science programs, especially in middle school grades.

"We are grateful to Mazda for its support of our efforts to work with Orange County public school teachers and administrators to strengthen science instruction in our schools and prepare students for a world that increasingly requires understanding of the fundamentals of science," said Sue Neuen, Science@OC's executive director. "The middle school years are an especially critical time for students as they become exposed to more complex science and math concepts. Effective science instruction, with project-based learning at its core, is key to engaging in and exciting students about understanding the physical world around them."

Robert Davis, President of the Mazda Foundation (USA), Inc., said, "Giving back to our communities is at the core of what we do at Mazda and the Mazda Foundation. Supporting STEM programs is about creating opportunities for students to spark their imagination and drive to learn and do more. The work that Science@OC is doing is critical to the future of helping our young people to excel."

About Science@OC

Science@OC, a fiscally sponsored project of OneOC, partners with Orange County educators to inspire middle school students to excel in Science and explore STEM careers. Visit the Science@OC website at www.scienceoc.org for more information.

Mazda Foundation

Through the Mazda Foundation, Mazda and its employees are working together to proactively help our neighbors – and the communities where we live and work – to build a better, brighter future. With contributions exceeding \$8 million since its founding in 1992, the Mazda Foundation is playing a meaningful role in helping thousands of Americans realize their aspirations and dreams. It's also important to note that programs the Mazda Foundation supports range from children's organizations and educational scholarships to food banks, environmental programs and crucial disaster relief efforts. To learn more, [visit Mazdafoundation.org](http://visitMazdafoundation.org).

Editors Note: *Save the Date*, Friday, Nov. 20, Science@OC's 3rd Annual Spark Imagination event featuring guest speaker Sandra Tsing Loh, writer, actress and NPR radio commentator, at the Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, next to the UCI campus in Irvine.

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