



## **Chabot Space & Science Center Awarded \$109,000 Grant From Chevron Corporation for Techbridge Program**

*Encouraging more girls to pursue careers in technology and science*

Sept. 15, 2008 – OAKLAND, Calif. – Techbridge, Chabot Space & Science Center’s program to encourage science, technology and engineering careers for girls in underserved communities, has received a \$109,000 grant from the Chevron Corporation [NYSE:CVX]. The grant funds will introduce Techbridge’s hands-on projects, career exploration activities, and academic and career guidance to a new school district, Mt. Diablo Unified in Contra Costa County.

Despite recent shifts in the demographics of the fields of science and engineering, women are still highly underrepresented. Only 12 percent of engineers today are women and only 25 percent of computer and information science bachelor’s degrees are awarded to women. Encouraging girls to study science and engineering does not only increase the volume of work done in these subjects, but also brings a new set of viewpoints and approaches.

“Chevron’s support is helping Techbridge encourage more girls to pursue careers in technology and science,” said Linda Kekelis, co-founding director for Techbridge. “The funding will enable Techbridge to launch after-school programs at Holbrook Elementary and Glenbrook Middle School in Concord for the 2008-2009 school year.”

In addition to providing grant funds, volunteers from Chevron will participate by sharing their academic and work experiences with students. They will also guide field trips to Chevron facilities to show science and technology in real-world settings.

“We are excited to partner with Chabot to bring Techbridge to the Mt. Diablo Unified school district,” said Janet Auer, Community Engagement Specialist with Chevron. “There is a real need to educate girls in science, technology, engineering and math — all areas of tremendous growth for future careers and opportunities for making a difference in people’s lives.”

“In Techbridge, girls discover that they like technology and engineering,” said Kekelis. “The girls-only setting offers encouragement to develop new technical and scientific skills and consider new career options.”

More than 2,500 girls have participated in Techbridge’s after-school and summer programs since the program’s launch in 2000. The program offers hands-on technology and science projects as well as career exploration activities such as field trips and classroom visits by role models. Techbridge, which is offered to girls in fifth through 12th grades, expands girls’ options and has encouraged many more girls to aspire to careers in science, technology and engineering. For more information, visit [www.techbridgegirls.org](http://www.techbridgegirls.org).

Chevron is one of the leading integrated energy companies in the world. Headquartered in San Ramon, California, with subsidiaries that conduct business across the globe, Chevron is the second-largest energy company in the United States and among the largest corporations in the world, employing approximately 59,000 people worldwide. In 2007 the company donated over \$6 million to Bay Area nonprofits.

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**Chabot Space & Science Center**, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit interactive science center whose mission is to inspire and educate students of all ages about our Planet Earth and the Universe. The Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. just off Highway 13 in the Oakland hills. [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)