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Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium Students Win Dell Scholarship

MIAMI (May 17, 2006) – The coveted \$20,000 Dell Scholarship, funded by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, was awarded to Alex Petit-Homme and Rubens Cadet, two of the Museum's Upward Bound Students on May 8, 2006. Along with the financial support the scholarship awards, each student will also receive a new laptop to aid them in completing their goal of obtaining a college degree.

Alex will pursue a degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Florida and Rubens will pursue a degree in Business Administration from Florida International University. Both students are currently seniors and attend the G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School in Miami. Each student has a particular area of interest at the Museum; Alex has been both a membership salesman and museum host. Alex states, "The Museum has been instrumental in keeping me on the college track and offers me an opportunity to intern and/or work while in school." Rubens is a volunteer in our Winter Camp and is enrolled in the Crime Scene Investigation class offered to Upward Bound Student. Rubens states, "The Museum never missed a bit when it comes to helping me and my friends reach our college dreams. I appreciate it very much."

The Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium President & CEO Gillian Thomas said, "We are extremely proud of Alex and Rubens for achieving this scholarship goal, two of only a 100 for the US in total. Education is our focus and we consistently strive to find new opportunities for young people through our youth programs such as Upward Bound: these students are examples of our success."

As stated in the entry guidelines, scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, and on campus room and board. If approved by the foundation, scholarship winners may be able to use the monies during an internship. The scholarship may be used at any accredited two-year or four-year institution in the United States where credits can be earned towards a baccalaureate degree, including community and junior colleges.

In October of 1999, the Museum was honored to be the first science museum in the nation to become an Upward Bound Math & Science Center. Upward Bound is one of the US Department of Education's TRIO programs. The overall goal of the program is to help low income, first-generation college bound students be prepared for postsecondary study, and to graduate college with a bachelor's degree in science, math, and technology related fields.

Founded in 1949, the Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium is accredited by the American Association of Museums and affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution. Open daily 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Fridays until 10:00 pm. The Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium is located at 3280 South Miami Avenue in Miami, Florida. For more information, call (305) 646-4200 or visit www.miamisci.org.

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