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Contact: Shawn Purdy/Lindsey Brown – SLATE PR

(212) 235-6813

shawn@slate-pr.com / lindsey@slate-pr.com

**THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND STUDY CENTER**

GRAND OPENING TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 19, 2013

(New York, NY – April 1, 2013) – The Bronx High School of Science together with its Alumni Association and Endowment fund announce the grand opening of the newly redesigned **Holocaust Museum and Study Center** on Friday, April 19th, also the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The occasion will include a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Bronx High School of Science from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM. This new facility provides a permanent space to protect and conserve the Museum’s collection of over 900 historic artifacts and to further promote tolerance and understanding of all people through the historic lens of the Holocaust.

One of the premier educational institutions in the country, Bronx Science has had the honor of housing one of our nation’s oldest Holocaust Museum and Study Centers since 1978. Founded by legendary Bronx Science Social Studies teacher Dr. Stuart S. Elenko, the vast collection was accrued through purchase and donations from students and alumni with parents who had lived through the Holocaust and many relatives who did not. Eventually the size of the collection was such that the small exhibit and storage space were exhausted and much of the collection was on loan to the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

In 2009 the decision was made to create a permanent home for the collection to give both students and the public greater access to this important collection. The newly completed museum will feature three galleries, one lecture hall, two research rooms and ample museum quality display and storage features. The new space will help continue the mission of the Bronx Science Holocaust Museum and Studies Center “to educate students, teachers, and visitors about the horrors of the Holocaust while promoting respect, tolerance, and combating prejudice.”

More than just a museum, the Holocaust Museum and Study Center serves as a vital part of the Bronx High School of Science curriculum. The Holocaust Studies and Tolerance class is a wholly unique course that blends history, leadership and museum curatorial skills. The leadership class meets once a day and students also serve as curators of the facility. In the class, students examine the history of anti-Semitism, the effects of propaganda, the rise of Nazism, and lastly the persecution of the Jews. Ultimately, students become the teachers themselves and share the lessons that they have learned with the rest of the Bronx Science student body and with the greater New York community. Today, the Bronx High School of Science is more culturally diverse than ever making curriculum like the Holocaust Leadership course extremely important.

“My goal is ultimately that the students learn how to empathize, especially with someone different. In a school as diverse as Bronx Science, I think it’s an essential goal,” says Sophia Sapozhnikov, the English teacher who currently conducts the Holocaust class and oversees the museum. “Bronx Science has reputation for churning out scientists and Nobel Prize winners, but we also want to develop thinking, feeling, empathetic human beings.”

Frequently cited as the most renowned high school in America, the Bronx High School of Science attracts a blend of culturally, ethnically and economically diverse intellectually gifted students from all 5 boroughs, most of whom are first-generation Americans. The only criterion for admission is an exam open to all grade-eligible students in New York City. Due to the exceptional curriculum of this public school, many of its programs and classes must find additional funding outside of Department of Education support. Therefore, the role of an actively involved Parents’ Association, Alumni Association, and Endowment Fund is critical to its success. Scienceites, as the school’s students are known, have graduated to become alumni who include eight Nobel Prize winners, the first African-American neurosurgeon, countless authors, lawyers, physicians, educators, artists, entertainers and leaders in business and government.

The Alumni Association and the Endowment Fund are committed to ensuring quality programs and facilities at Bronx Science – including state-of-the-art science labs, computer technology, library and performing arts facilities. The Bronx HS of Science Endowment Fund, Inc., established in 1992, supports the Bronx High School of Science as a model for public education in both idea and in practice, and raises funds for capital and program expenditures to benefit the students and the school today and for the future.

For giving and naming opportunities, please contact Christina McGovern Bater Chairperson, The Bronx High School of Science Endowment Fund, Inc. endowment@bxscience.edu or (646) 445-5015.