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## EDUCATION SPECIALIST FROM NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER TO PRESENT AT MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

### Sonya Williams to speak with Museum Members at members-only reception

**BUFFALO (February 5, 2009)** – Sonya Williams, Education Specialist from the Aerospace Education Services Project of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, will be presenting "Living and Working In Space" to members of the Buffalo Museum of Science at the museum on **Friday, February 6 at 7:00pm and 7:30pm.**

The museum will welcome its members on Friday night from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for a special viewing of its new exhibits, *First Observers* and *Alien Earths*, which celebrate 2009's *International Year of Astronomy*. Williams' **20-minute presentations** will compliment these astronomy-themed exhibits and focus on NASA Earth, Astrophysics, Heliophysics and Planetary science missions. Williams will also share information on astronaut training, shuttle missions and living and working in space. In addition to helping children with 'make and take' activities, Williams will also be available to talk with visitors when she is not presenting.

Williams' presentations will take place in the museum's permanent exhibit, "The Marchands: Scientific Illustrators". Please call 716.896.5200 for more information.

#### **ABOUT FIRST OBSERVERS: January 10 – April 30, 2009**

The *International Year of Astronomy* ignites a celebration of the human spirit's sense of wonder. It is this sense of wonder that has been a driving force behind great explorations of our land, seas and heavens. In *First Observers*, the Buffalo Museum of Science pays tribute to those whose curious pursuits have laid the path for better understanding our planet, our solar system, our universe and ultimately ourselves. It is from these findings that we will formulate the questions that will determine tomorrow's explorations. Where will your questions take you?



#### **ABOUT ALIEN EARTHS: February 1 – April 30, 2009**

Address some of humankind's most ancient concerns: Where did we come from? Are we alone? Through hands-on components and multi-media presentations, the nationally-traveling *Alien Earths* invites visitors to join the search for distant, habitable worlds. Learn about the formation of stars and planets, the search for planets beyond our solar system, and search for life beyond Earth. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to compare the life cycle of our Sun to other stars; set planets in motion around a star and watch what happens; experiment with an infrared camera and ordinary objects; explore the methods used to search for extrasolar planets; listen to sounds from space and find out what signals from intelligent beings might sound like; and have other experiences of the search for alien earths.



*The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tift Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.*

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org).