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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LASM to Host ExxonMobil's 2020 Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Art & Science Museum will host ExxonMobil's Annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on **February 17, 2020**. This annual summit, which began in 2003, aims to inspire female students to consider a career in engineering by providing hands-on experiences that range from chemistry to physics. Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is a private event organized by ExxonMobil.

"ExxonMobil's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is the flagship event put on annually by our Women's Interest Network, better known as WIN," said Brad Allen, ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge Complex SSHE Manager. "Conducting this event at LASM, a key enrichment anchor institution of learning here in Baton Rouge, is a win-WIN for the community."

One hundred forty young women from 14 schools around East Baton Rouge Parish are attending this event. In keeping with the event's theme of "Energy," they will enjoy screenings of *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium and build functioning model cars out of various materials, sparking their interest in STEM-oriented careers.

"As showcased in *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*, which is now showing in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, engineers are actively changing our world for the better," said Serena Pandos, LASM's President & Executive Director. "We are honored to host Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day for ExxonMobil, as it is a perfect reflection of our values as an institution. Women are historically underrepresented in the sciences and the arts; we are proud to host programs that highlight their accomplishments and encourage them to participate in these fields."

According to a 2017 National Science Foundation study, only 250,000 women in the United States were employed in engineering positions, compared with nearly 1.5 million men. Also, less than 20 percent of Bachelor's degrees in engineering were awarded to women.

"Part of LASM's mission is to provide access to quality art and science programming to all visitors regardless of socio-economic status, creating another intersection between LASM and this fantastic celebration of women in engineering," said Pandos. "The Museum's education programs, which served over 105,000 school program participants in 2019, are designed to give students hands-on experience with a variety of disciplines while inspiring them to pursue fulfilling careers in these fields."

LASM will host its own celebration of engineering and design with its annual **Engineering Day on March 14, 2020**, from 10 AM - 3 PM. This fun-filled festival features as many as 30 interactive stations showcasing a wide variety of engineering specialties for all ages. This year's hands-on activities include a hurricane simulator, robotics, 3D printing, virtual reality demonstrations, and a stream table showing the effects of weather and erosion.

"Engineering Day is one of LASM's most popular community events," said Pandos. "Visitors of all ages can interact with cutting-edge demonstrations provided by our fantastic partners, notably the **LSU College of Engineering**. Like Exxon's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, LASM's annual Engineering Day has inspired interest in these fields and demonstrated how they affect our everyday lives. Attendance to this event has grown year after year; we're expecting over 1,000 visitors to join us in 2020."

Engineering Day 2020 is included in LASM's general admission and, at the time of this release, sponsored by **Albemarle, BASF, and Olin Corporation**. Visit lasm.org for more information.

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Images: Less than 20 percent of Bachelor's degrees in engineering are awarded to women. Events like Exxon Mobil's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day and LASM's Engineering Day aim to inspire girls to pursue careers in engineering and design. Image courtesy of ExxonMobil.

About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum

A nonprofit organization housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum enhances the understanding and appreciation of art and science for general audiences and students by presenting unique, educational, and entertaining experiences that encourage discovery, inspire creativity, and foster the pursuit of knowledge. More information about the Art & Science Museum is available at lasm.org.

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