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Orange County Library System's South Trail Branch One of Just 14 Libraries Nationwide to Host Explore Tech Traveling Exhibit

Orlando, Florida – On November 5, the South Trail Branch of the Orange County Library System will host a grand opening celebration for Explore Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference, a traveling exhibit designed to connect kids with the exciting world of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) careers and education. South Trail is one of 14 libraries in the nation, and the only library in Florida, selected to host the exhibit, which will be at the branch through January 5, 2017.

The exhibit shows how engineering fosters more sustainable communities and helps solve common problems. Explore Tech features multimedia components that visitors can interact with, as well as a series of programs centered around STEM concepts.

The opening celebration for Explore Tech will feature keynote speaker Ledlyne Heriscar Vazquez, a Haitian-Creole engineer from NASA, and on November 12, the University of Central Florida's chapter of Engineers Without Borders will be at the branch to discuss their work on water-sanitation and air-quality projects around the world. Other programs, like Fairy Tale STEM and Ozobots, are also scheduled to coincide with the exhibit.

The South Trail Branch is located in a community where there are many low-income families, as well as a large Haitian-Creole population. Explore Tech gives kids from communities that are underrepresented in STEM fields important exposure to people, ideas and projects that are using technology to make a difference.

Explore Tech was organized by the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning, the American Library Association's Public Programs Office, the Lunar and Planetary Institute and the Afterschool Alliance. It was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Featured Explore Tech Events

NASA Explore Tech Opening Celebration

South Trail Branch Library, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Saturday, November 5, noon-4 p.m.

NASA and the South Trail Branch celebrate the opening of Explore Tech with keynote speaker Ledlyne Heriscar Vazquez, a NASA engineer. Representatives from NASA and the Orange County Library System's Melrose Center will be on hand for the festivities.

Explore Tech: Engineers Without Borders

South Trail Branch Library, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Saturday, November 12, 2 p.m.

The UCF chapter of Engineers Without Borders will discuss how they are engineering change all over the world.

Explore Tech: Wind Turbine Challenge

South Trail Branch Library, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Monday, November 21, 4:30 p.m.

Learn how wind turbines work and how wind energy can be used to provide electricity by building a model and testing the results.

Explore Tech: Design a Park

South Trail Branch Library, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Tuesday, November 22, 4:30 p.m.

Imagine the park of your dreams and build it from the ground up.

For more information on Explore Tech, or for a list of Explore Tech events at the South Trail branch, visit ocls.info/exploretech.

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The Orange County Library System is a public library system that serves its patrons by providing access to collections, facilities, events and services that connect our community to the evolving world of ideas, information and technology. For more information about the Orange County Library System, visit ocls.info.