

What: Marlene B. Brown, President of The Children's Museum of Utica, NY announces that on Monday, August 19th, the Children's Museum will proudly host our U.S. Congressman - the Honorable Sherwood Boehlert, and the Administrator of NASA - the Honorable Sean O'Keefe. Also in attendance will be Charles Trautmann, Executive Director of the Sciencenter at Cornell University. As part of the day's events, Cornell's Office of Governmental Affairs will have their Mars Rover on display.

When: Monday, August 19, 2002 at 11:00am

Where: Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science & Technology
311 Main Street, Utica, NY 13501 (next to Union Station)

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Information and Bios:

U.S. Congressman Sherwood L. Boehlert, 23rd District, New York

Utica native Sherwood L. Boehlert (R-New Hartford), Chairman of the House Science Committee, was first elected to the House of Representatives in November 1982. He is currently serving in his tenth consecutive term representing Central New York. In the 2000 election, he again won all nine counties and received a convincing 60% of the vote in a three-way race. Boehlert has served on the Science Committee since 1983, and was elected Chairman in January 2001. The Committee has jurisdiction over all federal nonmilitary scientific and technology research and development programs, on which the federal government spends more than \$30 billion a year. The Committee has jurisdiction over NASA, the National Science Foundation, research and development initiatives within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, civil aviation development/research, and marine research.

Boehlert, the third-ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, served as Chairman of its Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment from 1995 to 2000. He remains an active member of that Subcommittee, sits on the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, and the Subcommittee on Railroads. Boehlert was reappointed by House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert as a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, where he is on the front line of important intelligence decisions faced by Congress. Boehlert is a delegate to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, also at the appointment of the Speaker, where he serves as chairman of the Assembly's Scientific and Technology Committee. The 23rd includes all or parts of Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, and Schoharie counties.

NASA Administrator, Honorable Sean O'Keefe

Nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate, Sean O'Keefe was appointed by the President as the 10th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on December 21, 2001. As Administrator, O'Keefe leads the NASA team and manages its resources, as NASA seeks to advance exploration and discovery in aeronautics and space technologies. O'Keefe joined the Bush Administration on inauguration day and served as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget until December 2001, overseeing the preparation, management and administration of the Federal budget and government wide-management initiatives across the Executive Branch.

Prior to joining the Bush Administration, O'Keefe was the Louis A. Bantle Professor of Business and Government Policy, an endowed chair at the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He also served as the Director of National Security Studies, a partnership of Syracuse University and Johns Hopkins University, for delivery of executive education programs for senior military and civilian Department of Defense managers. Appointed to these positions in 1996, he was previously Professor of Business Administration and Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at the Pennsylvania State University.

Appointed as Secretary of the Navy in July 1992 by President George Bush, O'Keefe previously served as Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Defense since 1989. Before joining Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's Pentagon management team in these capacities, he served on the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations staff for eight years, and was Staff Director of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. His public service began in 1978 upon selection as a Presidential Management Intern. O'Keefe is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and has served as chair of an Academy panel on investigative practices. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Wolfson College of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, a member of the Naval Postgraduate School's civil-military relations seminar team for emerging democracies and has conducted seminars for the Strategic Studies Group at Oxford University. He served on the national security panel to devise the 1988 Republican platform and was a member of the 1985 Kennedy School of Government program for national security executives at Harvard Univ.

In 1993, President Bush and Secretary Cheney presented him the Distinguished Public Service Award. He was also the recipient of the Department of the Navy's Public Service Award in December 2000. Sean O'Keefe was the 1999 faculty recipient of the Syracuse University Chancellor's Award for Public Service. He is the author of several journal articles, contributing author of "Keeping the Edge: Managing Defense for the Future," released in October 2000, and in 1998, co-authored "The Defense Industry in the Post-Cold War Era: Corporate Strategies and Public Policy Perspectives." Sean O'Keefe earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1977 from Loyola University in New Orleans, LA, and his Master of Public Administration degree in 1978 from The Maxwell School.

Charles Trautmann, Executive Director, Sciencenter

Charlie has served as Executive Director of the Sciencenter since 1990. At the museum, he is responsible for managing staff and daily operations, external relations, and planning. He holds a Ph.D. in engineering from Cornell and is a registered professional engineer and certified professional geologist. Charlie is also adjunct associate professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Cornell, where he teaches in the Master of Engineering program and serves on the executive committee of the Cornell Outreach Council.

Marlene B. Brown, President, The Children's Museum

Marlene has served as President of the Museum since June 1, 2002. Prior to that, as President of the Board of Directors, she operated the Museum for seven months as an unpaid volunteer. At the museum, she is responsible for managing staff and daily operations, finances, marketing, director of educational programs and exhibit planning. A Clinton, NY native, Marlene earned her Bachelor's degree in English and History from Utica College of Syracuse University and her Master's degree in Education from SUNY Cortland. A former Senior High English & Psychology teacher, and American Management certification instructor, Marlene is the founder/owner of three small businesses, Marmel Consulting, Sunrise Publishing, and TechnoTouch e-Strategists. A prolific author, Marlene has won several business awards, including being 1 of 15 people worldwide to have earned the combined CSP/CMC (Certified Speaking Professional & Certified Management Consultant). In 2001, she was chosen as one of the 20 top "Women in Business" at the 1st annual CNY BizEventz. Marlene is the proud mother of 5 and grandmother of four. Her husband, Earl, a Rome, NY native and retired professional firefighter, assists her at the Museum as an unpaid volunteer. They are both active in their communities and in Rotary.

Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science & Technology www.museum4kids.net

The Children's Museum is located in the historic Main Street district of downtown Utica between majestic Union Station and Bagg's Square Memorial Park. The Museum is a hands-on learning center with emphasis on local history, environmental science and the arts. Three floors encompass a total of 18,000 square feet of exhibition space. Exhibitions include Playspace, a unique larger than life wooden train activity center for children age 5 and younger; Exploration

Station, a play village with numerous stores to explore for younger children; the Dinorama, a multi-media display of dinosaur models and fossils; the Diorama, a multi-media display of the history of Central New York; a reconstruction of an Iroquois Longhouse; the Living Science Center which houses live animal and insect displays including an Active Bee Hive, the Weather Room which features Doppler Radar programs; and several interactive exhibits including musical instruments, numerous toys of old, and an echo tube.

They will soon be opening the Museum's 4th floor for interactive exhibits on "Transportation Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". The Utica Fire Department will house all their artifacts there, plus a partial fire truck for kids to climb up in and explore. The Utica Police Department will have a car for kids to climb in and explore. A 17 foot single-engine airplane, a working model of the Erie Canal, and the original Amtrak railway switching station will be on exhibit there as well as some space exhibits.

The Museum also has an outdoor display of real trains including an Adirondack Railroad Engine, Dining Car, Caboose and Steam Engine, plus Old 6721, acquired by the National Railway Historic Society, on display at a nearby track in Union Station's yard at the rear of the Museum. The Museum does educational programs both at the Museum and in local schools throughout the three county areas it serves. A collaboration between the Children's Museum, Ithaca's PRI (Paleontological Research Institution), and the MOST in Syracuse makes Education Programs in Earth Science, Fossils and Dinosaurs available to the Mohawk Valley area. The Museum collaborates with the Erie Canal Schoolboat and Railway Association.

K-12 AT CORNELL

Cornell University has long been a national leader in research and teaching, especially in the humanities and in the fields of science, math, engineering, and technology. Our status as the Land Grant University of New York State has enabled us to maintain a vast and effective Cornell Cooperative Extension system that brings the benefits of our work to communities across the state. However, we do more than give the state and the nation practical guidance, significant research and well-trained professionals and citizens; through a wide variety of K-12 outreach programs, Cornell University supports and extends the New York State and national education system.

Athena Mars Exploration Rovers <http://athena.cornell.edu/>

Is there life on Mars? Could humans build a new off-Earth settlement on the red planet? Like the Earth's little brother, Mars has long fascinated sky-watchers. NASA's new plans for exploration of Mars include the Athena Payload: instruments and tools for a Mars rover. Equipped with the Athena Payload, the twin rovers of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover project will be robotic field geologists, exploring Mars' climate history and searching for signs of water and life. Athena is a scientific instrument package designed by Cornell University researchers and others for NASA's 2003 twin Mars Exploration Rover mission. This mission is part of NASA's Mars Surveyor Program, and is scheduled to land two rovers on Mars in early 2004.

Sciencenter <http://www.sciencenter.org/>

Sciencenter strives to become a local and national model for increasing the scientific and technological curiosity of our society by: continuing to grow and develop as an educationally dynamic, financially stable organization where people of all ages and backgrounds come to explore science and technology through hands-on experience; reaching out to stimulate the curiosity of those with the fewest opportunities in our community; developing and testing science exhibits and programs to be shared with our local community and science centers nationwide; conducting and disseminating research on effective methods of teaching science to young people that will improve science education throughout the nation.