C Spire Donates $1 Million to Mississippi Children's Museum Expansion, Advancing Technology-Driven STEM Learning

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(Jackson, Miss.) -- The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is thrilled to announce an incredible $1 million gift from C Spire to support the museum's LIFT Capital Campaign, a bold and transformational project that will expand MCM's facilities and significantly broaden access to high-quality educational experiences for students and educators statewide.

C Spire's significant contribution towards the LIFT Capital Campaign, will support the construction of a 20,000-square-foot addition to the museum. The LIFT is a tangible manifestation of MCM's non-traditional museum programs and events and represents the museum's deep commitment to innovative solutions and creative environments where the ultimate goal is to Learn, Inspire, Fulfill, and Teach.

"The Mississippi Children's Museum is a critical driver of STEM education and technology adoption here in our community and all across the state, which we are proud to support as a longtime partner," said Hu Meena, Chairman, Telapex, Inc., the parent company of C Spire. "C Spire's mission is to enhance lives through technology, and we believe that LIFT City and other programs are ways to bring that to life enabling more students and educators to experience the possibilities of high-tech careers."

C Spire's donation will support the development of technology-rich learning experiences within LIFT City, an immersive, career-exploration experience designed specifically for students in grades 4th – 6th. Located at the entrance of the new LIFT addition, LIFT City will introduce learners to high-demand STEM careers through hands-on challenges, collaborative problem-solving, and real-world scenarios powered by emerging technologies. Throughout the experience, participants will engage with age-appropriate AI tools that support real-world problem-solving.

LIFT City simulations will incorporate technologies shaping tomorrow's workforce, including AI-assisted healthcare tools, autonomous communication networks, GPS-guided equipment, and smart command center dashboards that keep the city connected. As students navigate each challenge, they will practice critical executive functioning skills such as planning, prioritization, collaboration, and decision-making while discovering how technology enhances the work of professionals across a variety of industries.

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Scenarios throughout the exhibit will introduce foundational AI literacy concepts, allowing students to explore how technology can help detect problems, predict outages, manage systems, and recommend solutions. Through these experiences, learners will explore how technology is shaping the future of work. At the conclusion of the experience, participants will gather in a "Launch Pad" celebration space, where a symbolic rocket launch reinforces the idea that their futures are full of possibility and potential.

LIFT City represents a strategic expansion of the Mississippi Children's Museum's educational offerings, designed to serve an often underserved audience of older elementary students who are ready for more advanced, facilitated learning experiences. Unlike traditional exhibit spaces, this model emphasizes guided engagement, repeat visitation, and deeper connections to classroom learning standards.

"We are deeply grateful to C Spire for this transformative $1 million donation. C Spire's steadfast support of the museum has been essential to our success since 2010," says Susan Garrard, MCM President/CEO. "This partnership is about more than technology—it is about opportunity. Together, we are equipping Mississippi's children with the skills, confidence, and curiosity they need to thrive in a rapidly changing, technology-driven workforce. While technology evolves every day, our partnership ensures children have the resources to build critical thinking, executive function, and leadership skills."

The development of LIFT City is being led by MCM's team in collaboration with a Community Advisory Committee composed of industry professionals, educators, and workforce development experts. This group, which includes a representative from the C Spire team, is helping ensure that the experience fosters confidence, curiosity, and career aspiration at a critical age. In class teaching materials will extend learning outcomes with lessons focused on engineering design, problem-solving, data analysis, technology literacy, and career awareness.

Through this initiative, MCM aims to spark early interest in STEM careers by providing meaningful exposure to professions that are essential to the health, safety, and growth of our communities. By connecting students with these pathways at a young age, LIFT City has the potential to play an exciting role in shaping Mississippi's future workforce.

For more information about the LIFT Capital Campaign or to learn how to support the project, visit liftms.org.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. MCM's two award-winning museums in Jackson and Meridian collectively offer over 100,000-square feet of exhibits and educational programming designed around five primary initiatives, Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. MCM offers exceptional resources for children, families, and educators through MCM at Home virtual programming, traveling exhibits and programs, community outreach, Launch into Learning afterschool program, professional development for educators, and Talk from the Start and Reach Out and Read, initiatives for parents and caregivers to promote language development in children from birth to five years old.

MCM is honored to have received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the Mississippi Tourism Association Governor's Award for Travel Attraction of the Year, and USA Today's '10Best Travel Award for Best Children's Museum. Learn more: www.mschildrensmuseum.org

About C Spire

C Spire is a privately held advanced technology company that delivers customer-inspired solutions, transforming how people and businesses connect, live, and work. With a proven legacy of innovation, C Spire is elevating connected living by providing customers with fiber-powered smart homes, AI-enhanced experiences and 5G connectivity. C Spire is accelerating tomorrow's business growth with secure fiber networks, AI-driven cloud solutions and intelligent collaboration tools. The company, based in Ridgeland, Miss., is the largest, privately held U.S. wireless carrier, a leading fiber internet provider in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, and an award-winning tech solutions partner for businesses across 49 states. For more information about C Spire, visit www.cspire.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cspire or X at www.x.com/cspire.