ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 13, 2001

Agenda Topic: Museums and Online Educational Projects

Materials: None

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Purpose of Agenda Item

To inform State Board members and the Public about E-Learning Projects

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

Board members will be aware of the E-Learning Projects with our Museum partners.

Background Information

The Field Museum’s Sue Project is based upon a 67 million year old Tyrannosaurus rex fossil. As a result of a grant from the State Board of Education, the project was brought into classrooms across the state through an electronic initiative consisting of a virtual field trip, standards-led curriculum materials, and professional development for teachers. The project was delivered to classrooms by either a live satellite broadcast or web cast hosted by the Field Museum scientists. Educators were provided online materials that were substantive, standards-based in curriculum, and included pre- and post-trip classroom activities. The Field Museum maintains a web site for the Sue curriculum that can be accessed by all teachers in the state. This site is continually updated by the Field Museum. Videos have also been distributed to schools across Illinois.

Separate from the Sue Project is the former Museum in the Classroom initiative that has evolved into the Museums Online Resources Project. This will be the first year for the project. In fact, the closing date for the Request-for-Proposals is not until December 17. This initiative will be another example of how museums and cultural institutions can play a vital role in providing students with wonderful classroom learning experiences. This new initiative will use the State Board’s Schools Without Walls portal as the first step in accessing these institutions of great resources.

Jennifer Eagleton of the Field Museum will join State Board staff in providing a multi-media presentation on these e-learning efforts.
**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

Continue support for E-Learning Projects and partnerships.

**Next Steps**

Ensure that E-Learning Policies support equity in access.