

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Brees Dream Foundation Donates \$122,000 to New Orleans Charter Science and Math High School**

The Brees Dream Foundation, a private foundation established by Drew and Brittany Brees, has contributed \$122,000 to the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education on behalf of New Orleans Charter Science and Math High School (Sci High). The funding will be used to provide advanced elective classes in such areas as geology, environmental science, engineering and robotics, computer literacy, film and photography. These classes often incorporate knowledge sharing by industry professionals who work with classroom teachers or serve as mentors, allowing students to learn new skills, interact with caring adults and learn first-hand about career opportunities.

The Brees Dream Foundation and its charity partner, Operation Kids, have contributed a total of \$240,000 to Sci High in 2007-2008. Other funding helped rebuild the school's outdoor sports area and fund summer science internships for 25 students.

The gifts are part of a 2-year campaign, announced by the Brees Dream Foundation and Operation Kids in June 2007, to raise \$1.8 million for children's programs and facilities around New Orleans. The campaign has so far raised and disbursed nearly \$1.65 million.

"Our strength has always been our partnership with individuals, organizations, and businesses bridging the gap between public funding and the ability to deliver a rigorous educational environment that prepares New Orleans youth for success in college and in life," says Bridget Ramsey, School Director. "Our high rate of success is directly related to this manner of support. In turn, our results with young adult learners are building the foundation supporting the future success of New Orleans.

"On behalf of all our individual and corporate donors, Operation Kids and the Brees Dream Foundation are proud to support the students at Sci High with these contributions," said Steve Reiher, VP of marketing and development with Operation Kids. "Sci High has hardworking students, dedicated parents and a fantastic staff. The students are high achievers in every sense of the word."

### **About New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School and the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education**

Sci High provides 350 students with a rigorous, lab-based education in science, math, engineering and technology. As one of the few open-admissions charter schools in New Orleans, Sci High reaches many of the most underserved youth in the city. Students come from diverse ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds from throughout the city. Eighty-six percent of the students are African American, 80% qualify for free or reduced lunch, and 57% are female, an unusually high number of young women pursuing science and mathematics education. A hallmark of the school is the requirement that students take two science classes and two math classes each year in addition to other class requirements. Unlike other schools, science and math classes are the predominant elective classes. A majority of Sci High graduates attend college or pursue technical training; many contribute to the New Orleans economy by filling vacancies in the oil and gas sector, entering the growing medical and biotech fields, working to solve state environmental problems, and entering the IT industry as employees and entrepreneurs.

In addition to supporting Sci High, the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education, Inc. also raises supplemental funding for the New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy (Sci Academy). In addition, the Foundation is a public advocate for their open-admissions, rigorous, hands-on educational model, and the belief that any student can succeed when provided with a safe, rigorous, and supportive environment. More at: [www.noscihigh.com](http://www.noscihigh.com).

#### **About Brees Dream Foundation**

The Brees Dream Foundation was established in 2003 by Brittany and Drew Brees. Its mission is to provide care, education and opportunities for children facing adversity. Since the inception of the Brees Dream Foundation in 2003, it has donated millions of dollars to non-profit and community organizations in New Orleans, San Diego and at Purdue University. More at: <http://www.DrewBrees.com>

#### **About Operation Kids**

Operation Kids is a trademarked d.b.a. of the OK Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to more effective giving. We manage donations that serve the needs of the Whole Child – their education, health, safety and well-being. Founded in 1999, the mission of Operation Kids is to support a community of children's issues through qualified and measurably effective charities and programs. The "OK Charity" designation means donors can give with confidence and expect accountability and results. 100% of all donations go directly to programs. More at: [www.operationkids.org](http://www.operationkids.org).

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