

For Immediate Release

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Landscape Structures, AEC Cares Renovate Chicago's South Side School

Architecture and construction professionals come together to transform school into an early childhood learning center complete with a playground

Delano, Minn. (June 24, 2014) — Architecture and construction professionals from around the nation will gather on Wednesday, June 25, as part of AEC Cares projectChicago to renovate the Metropolitan Learning and Wellness Center on Chicago's South Side to provide a safe place for underprivileged young children to stay during the day while encouraging an early interest in learning. The day of service, sponsored in part by Delano, Minn.-based Landscape Structures Inc. and its Illinois-based playground consultants, NuToys Leisure Products, Inc., will occur the day before the 2014 AIA National Convention opens in Chicago.

The Metropolitan Learning and Wellness Center focuses on infant and toddler care, offers full-day pre-K education as well as community-based health and wellness services. The newly created center, which will include playgrounds for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, provides on-site coordinated services through a team of experts including early childhood educators. The Center greatly benefits families in Chicago's Englewood communities, which are among the most challenged areas of the city.

- What: 150 architecture and construction professionals from around the nation will volunteer at the Metropolitan Learning and Wellness Center to install new playground equipment and renovate a former school building.
- Where: The community service project will take place at the Metropolitan Learning and Wellness Center (5338 S. Loomis Ave., Chicago, IL).
- When: Wednesday, June 25

The AIA National Convention, which is being held June 26-28, at McCormick Place in Chicago, will offer opportunities for the world's brightest architects, designers, innovators and thought leaders to connect, learn and engage. In addition to AEC Cares projectChicago, other convention highlights include keynote speakers like Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, three education tracks, the AIA Expo, and events, tours and the final party. Learn more at <http://convention.aia.org>.

About Landscape Structures Inc.

Since 1971, Landscape Structures Inc. has been the leading manufacturer of commercial playground equipment in the world. The employee-owned company is committed to creating a better world by encouraging outdoor activities that develop healthy kids, families and communities. Landscape Structures designs better playgrounds that welcome all ages and abilities, become signature gathering spaces for communities and offer the most innovative play experiences. The company's mission from day one has been to enhance children's lives by fostering and creating inspiring play experiences while honoring the environment.