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**4,500 free field trips offered at
Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Forty-five hundred students will have the opportunity to experience Oklahoma’s story through its people at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, thanks to a \$50,000 literate communities grant from the Dell Foundation and a donation from the Museum’s Teen Board.

In addition to funding free admission to the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, the donations also provide teachers the option of free lunches for each student or a gas card to help with transportation costs.

“We are hearing over and over again from educators across our state that the rising cost of fuel, in addition to other economic factors, is going to hinder their ability to take field trips during the coming school year,” said Shannon L. Nance, president of the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum and Oklahoma Heritage Association. “Thanks to the generosity of the Dell Foundation and our Teen Board, we can provide students a valuable educational experience without the costs typically associated with field trips.”

Open since May 2007, the Museum offers a unique look into the lives and accomplishments of famous and everyday Oklahomans via high-tech, interactive exhibits. The Oklahoma Through Its People Gallery’s video-driven exhibits showcase individuals like country music superstar Reba McEntire, aviation innovator Wiley Post and BMX bike rider Mat Hoffman. The Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery pays tribute to the 621 individuals who have been inducted since 1921, and offers visitors an opportunity to test their Oklahoma knowledge in a computer-based quiz. Each visitor can become part of Oklahoma history by sharing and recording stories about their own heritage in the ONEOK Tell Your Story exhibit.

“We have taken great strides to include people from a diverse range of industries, backgrounds, socio-economic status and age so that everyone who comes to the Museum will find someone with whom they can connect,” said Nance. “We are most proud of the energy and effort that has gone into the Museum when a student discovers a new role model or ambition after meeting one of the Oklahomans in our exhibits.”

Committed to supporting educational and literacy services programs in the communities where Dell employees live and work, the Museum’s free field trip program was a natural fit for a literate communities grant from the Dell Foundation. Dell’s grant is funding 2,500 field trips in both the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.

“We believe strongly in empowering Oklahoma organizations offering innovative programs designed to help youth excel in a world driven by technology” said Kathy Oden-Hall, corporate communications senior manager for Dell. “We were extremely impressed with the level of interactive technology the museum uses to engage visitors and we are excited to support the museum’s outreach to children in Oklahoma County who might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit.”

The funding provided by the Teen Board was raised by a Battle of the Bands competition. The Teen Board and the Battle were brand new programs for the Museum in the 2007-2008 school year.

Approximately half of the free field trips for the 2008-2009 school year are allocated to any Oklahoma school and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The other half is allocated to at-risk students in Oklahoma County.

To download a registration for any of the Museum's free field trip opportunities or for more information about the Museum, visit www.oklahomaheritage.com or call 405.235.4458.

The Oklahoma Heritage Association is an 81-year-old non-profit organization committed to preserving Oklahoma history and promoting pride in our great state. Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, named best new attraction in Oklahoma by the Department of Tourism & Recreation and Oklahoma City's "best museum for teens" in the Nickelodeon Parents' Pick Awards, the Association strives to tell Oklahoma's story through its people.

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