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CHESS FOR SUCCESS PREPARES THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEM PROFESSIONALS

Portland, Ore., October 15, 2015—For many at-risk children, Chess for Success is a life changer: a game changer. Through learning chess, children develop critical-thinking, problem-solving, and life skills. As a result, self-confidence; behavior; interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields; and academic performance improve. Long-term, the goal is to increase the high school graduation rate and college/workplace readiness in Oregon and SW Washington, ending the cycle of generational poverty. Everyone wins!

This school year, Chess for Success after-school clubs are being held at 81 schools. Among the children participating, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ is economically disadvantaged, $\frac{1}{2}$ is minorities, and $\frac{1}{3}$ is girls.

“With the forecast for STEM careers continuing to grow, this is an awesome opportunity for young people to pursue STEM programs and fields that will help them become self-sufficient adults,” said Julie Young, Chess for Success executive director. “We are beyond proud, in particular, that girls want to learn and play chess, and we hope more girls will get in the game.”

For the second year, Chess for Success is being offered during the school day at Portland’s Faubion School, where one half of the middle students taking the elective are girls, and there is a waitlist.

Julie Young, Chess for Success Executive Director, welcomes the opportunity to speak with you by phone or in-person interview about how the program is changing lives, and would be happy to put you in touch with students, teachers, and parents who are part of the program.

The mission of Chess for Success is to help children develop the skills necessary for success in school and in life through chess. Founded in 1992 as the Portland Chess Project, the after-school program began in nine of Portland’s worst-performing schools and has grown 900%, reaching 81 schools for the 2015-2016 school year. Also growing is participation in tournaments presented by Chess for Success at the regional, city of Portland, and state levels, as well as the Girls Play Chess tournament.