

Leon M. Lederman

Joy and Imagination: A Legacy to Science

Leon M. Lederman

Advocate for Science Education

We are pleased to name the Science Education Center at Fermilab for Leon M. Lederman in honor of his contributions to precollege science education. Lederman has long recognized the importance of science education to the intellectual and economic health of society. In 1979 Lederman, then director of Fermilab, started *Saturday Morning Physics* for high school students, a volunteer program that continues to graduate 300 students annually. At the time, Fermilab funds could not be spent on precollege education programs, so Lederman encouraged the establishment of Friends of Fermilab, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to supporting Fermilab precollege programs. Since its incorporation in 1983, Friends of Fermilab has raised over \$2,600,000 from public and private sources including the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the state of Illinois and various private foundations. Today, Friends of Fermilab and Fermilab offer over 50 precollege programs that served 32,000 students and 11,000 teachers in FY92.

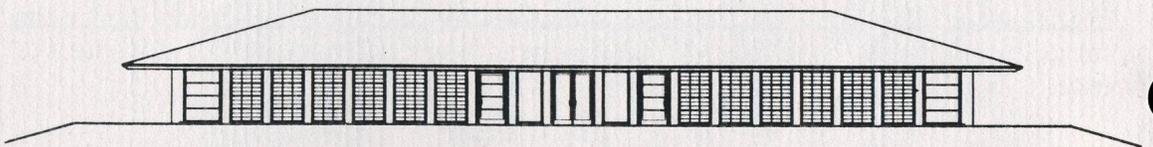
Lederman's own high school days in New York City were an inspiration for his idea of an Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for talented high school students from throughout the state. IMSA, a residential three-year public high school located near Fermilab in Aurora, was a key element of the 1986 Illinois school reform legislation. Today, over 600 students are enrolled. IMSA graduating classes in 1989, 1990 and 1991 achieved the highest ACT scores in the nation.

Another initiative that has profited from Lederman's involvement is the Teachers Academy for Mathematics and Science designed to support Chicago public school reform by enhancing teachers' abilities to teach mathematics and science. Lederman led the drive to persuade all the universities in the Chicago area to sponsor this ambitious effort. Currently located on the campus of Illinois Institute of Technology, TAMS joins in partnership with school communities to "restructure the total learning environment of each school through the related vehicles of mathematics and science."

As Governor Thompson's Science Advisor, Lederman helped shape the Science Literacy Grant Program of the Illinois State Board of Education. Ten million dollars is available annually to school districts, colleges and universities and not-for-profit agencies for projects to enhance the teaching and learning of precollege science and mathematics.

In addition to supporting these specific initiatives for precollege education, Lederman serves as the chairman of the board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.





Dedication Ceremony
Leon M. Lederman Science Education Center
at Fermilab

September 25, 1992
3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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John Peoples, Jr., Director of Fermilab

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Marjorie G. Bardeen, Fermilab Education Program Manager

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Admiral James D. Watkins, Secretary of Energy

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Dennis Hastert, U.S. Congressman for the 14th District of Illinois

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Leon M. Lederman, Director Emeritus of Fermilab

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Ribbon Cutting

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Open House

