



For Release
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Elected Officials, Community Leaders and YouZee cut paperdoll ribbon to celebrate YouZeum Grand Opening

(COLUMBIA, MO) - U.S. Senator Kit Bond and Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman joined the YouZeum's mascot YouZee today to celebrate the Grand Opening of the YouZeum, mid-Missouri's only interactive health science center. The paperdoll chain used as the ribbon was made and held by Lee Elementary 3rd grade students and their families to promote the YouZeum, where it's all about you.

Before cutting the ribbon, YouZeum Board Chairman Jim Ritter thanked the entire community for coming together to bring Columbia a state-of-the-art destination, with an annual projected attendance of 60,000 visitors.

"The list is long of those who need to be recognized for their contributions. The YouZeum has truly been a whole community endeavor," Ritter said. "We appreciate the support of the City of Columbia and the efforts of Mayor Hindman, who has been an ally and friend in the development of the YouZeum for many years."

Ritter also recognized Bond, who helped secure the historic 30,000 square foot Federal Building, a \$1.4 million value, as the site for the YouZeum in 2003. In 2005, Bond secured an additional \$750,000 in federal funding for the YouZeum's construction and exhibit development.

"We are pleased to have Senator Bond with us for the ribbon cutting," Ritter said. "He has been a tremendous supporter of our efforts and has been instrumental in helping make the YouZeum a reality."

"We are here to celebrate what we hope will be a catalyst for a healthier Columbia – the new YouZeum," said Senator Kit Bond. "I am pleased to have had the opportunity to play a part in the development of this science center focusing on health and healthy behaviors."

The YouZeum, located at 608 E. Cherry, officially opened its doors to the public on Thursday, May 1. The YouZeum, where it's all about you, focuses on health, wellness and physical activity with engaging and interactive exhibits. For more information, visit www.youzeum.org.