

For Immediate Release

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MCAULIFFE-SHEPARD DISCOVERY CENTER'S COUNTDOWN CAFÉ COMPLETED WITH HELP FROM AG NEW ENGLAND \$50,000 GIFT

CONCORD, NH – The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, New Hampshire, recently dedicated the Associated Grocers of New England Countdown Café. The center is in the midst of a \$13 million expansion program; AG New England's five-year, \$50,000 contribution, developed in conjunction with the center's fundraising arm, Touch the Future, Inc., is helping to fund the expansion, the café, and annual programming costs.

AG New England President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Bourgoine, along with Senior Vice President/Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Steve Murphy, recently toured the new café and received a commemorative plaque. "On behalf of Associated Grocers of New England, its employees, and the over 500 Independent Retail Grocers the company represents across the region," said Bourgoine, "we are proud to support the spirit of learning, exploration, and discovery that the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center represents. AG New England is a retailer-owned cooperative of local independent grocers that still believes in the importance of community, charitable giving, and educational support. We encourage all to recognize, appreciate, and do what they can for the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center."

The 45,000-square-foot science center will provide opportunities for discovery and inspiration for people from communities throughout the region. Phase I of the expansion, completed in March 2009, included construction of the facility, upgrade of the planetarium theater, and the addition of new exhibits and programs. Phase II is focused on the Astronomy Gallery, which will provide a comprehensive look at the universe in which we live. Phase III will focus on the creation of the Aeronautics Wing, including a flight simulation center with F/A 18E and Cessna simulators.

"The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a premier science center providing outstanding interactive exhibits that inform and educate visitors, particularly children, from New England and beyond," adds Bourgoine. "We are proud to be associated with such a prestigious institution honoring Christa McAuliffe and Alan Shepard, New Hampshire's astronauts." For more information about the Discovery Center, visit www.starhop.com.

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