

For Immediate Release
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Nobel Prize Winner and Award Winning MIT Professor Help Launch Acera School Opening Ceremony

Dr. Jack W. Szostak, 2009 Nobel Prize Winner, and Dr. Angela Belcher, a world-renowned MIT professor and recipient of the 2004 MacArthur Genius Award and the 2013 MIT Innovator Award, will join Acera School parents, teachers, and the local community to welcome the Acera School to its new location at 5 Lowell Ave in Winchester MA on November 14th 2013.

Acera: The Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership was founded in 2010 as an independent STEM school to meet the needs of high ability students by offering learning with a runway that honors each student's potential. Acera strives to develop the next generation of scientists, innovators, and leaders who can make a positive impact in the world. By offering accelerated students opportunities according to their abilities, rather than their age, Acera provides boundless access to learning.

The Acera School Opening Ceremony will begin with an Open House from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM ,immediately followed by a special presentation called Innovation Snapshots. Both Belcher and Szostak will share an innovation snapshot from their fields of work. They will also each offer an opinion on how education should evolve at this time when so much is rapidly changing in science and society.

Drs. Belcher and Szostak are the ideal representatives for the launch of the new Acera School location, as their field work represents Acera's philosophy of inter-disciplinary learning. Acera partners with great thinkers from MIT, Tufts, and Harvard Medical School to link scientific questions and creative thinking to real world problems.

Dr. Calum MacRae, also a curriculum collaborator at Acera, noted of the Acera teaching team, "The innovative approaches to learning that you and your colleagues are developing are focused on stimulating and nurturing intellectual inquiry that will equip students for the rest of their lives. I am convinced that the discovery-focused learning environment that you are creating is destined to make major contributions to moving education into the information age."

"These scientists are role models for all of us – to fearlessly ask questions and collaborate with others to learn, explore, and solve problems. Inspiring students to consider big questions and engage with passion is what we are all about. Collaborative community and meaningful inquiry are values we believe should be present in *all* schools and communities! We are delighted to welcome the community to our Open House and Opening Ceremony! We now have a home to grow our school and our outreach to a much broader community!" said Acera Founder Courtney Dickinson.

Acera also offers after school enrichment programs including filmmaking, computer programming and carpentry that are open to the public. For more information visit www.aceraschool.org.

