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For Immediate Release

23rd Annual Youth Groundwater Festival
Wednesday, March 8, 2017 (9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)
Rock Valley College – Jacobs Center for Science and Math
Performing Arts Room in Educational Resources Center

Four hundred and fifty-four 4th and 5th grade students are scheduled to attend this free-of-charge festival, conducted by area professionals. The schools participating include Barbour, Cathedral of St. Peter, Cherry Valley, Christian Life, Durand, Immanuel Lutheran, Maria Montessori, Rockford Christian, Spectrum, Spring Creek, Westview and Whitehead. The Festival will entertain as well as educate as it provides an assortment of hands-on activities related to groundwater.

The festival will coincide with National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 5-11, 2017, (ngwa.org).

Groundwater is the source of drinking water in this region. Unfortunately, because of the sensitive geology in the area, combined with industrial, agricultural, business and personal activities, we are risk for groundwater contamination. With continuous education on groundwater protection, we hope to ensure safe drinking water for future generations.

The Youth Groundwater Festival is a learning fair where education is used as the key to addressing the issue of groundwater protection. The activities are directed toward 4th and 5th grade students who have the ability to understand the urgency and technical background of this issue. The students will leave with a greater appreciation for groundwater and its affect on their daily lives.

Supporting and coordinating agencies of this learning fair are: Winnebago County Health Department, Rock Valley College, Burpee Museum of Natural History, League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford, City of Rockford Water Division, City of Loves Park Water Division, North Park Public Water District, and the Northern Illinois Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee.

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