

Higgs Boson Discovery *Explained* using Film and Physicists
featuring
"The Atom Smashers"



For Immediate Release

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(Chicago) – Last week's discovery of the Higgs boson particle was international news, but few people outside the world of physics truly understood it. The [Illinois Science Council](http://IllinoisScienceCouncil.org) is partnering with [137 Films](http://137Films.org) to correct that. On Monday, July 16th they will host a screening of "The Atom Smashers" documentary followed by a discussion and Q&A with physicists.

The Higgs Boson Discovery Explained

for poets, painters, professionals and other non-physicists

Monday, July 16, 2012

6:30 - 8:30pm

Hosted at Landmark Century Cinema

2828 N. Clark St. (at Diversey)

Chicago, IL 60657

Tickets are \$10 in advance at higgsboson.eventbrite.com or \$15 cash only at the door

The Atom Smashers, a documentary film produced in 2008, clearly explains the science behind the Higgs boson discovery and the roller-coaster nature of the search as Fermilab scientists were closing in on it. The Higgs particle has been one of the universe's best-kept secrets – known as the Holy Grail of physics and the reason why everything has mass. This film beautifully conveys the dedication and conviction of the scientists pursuing it. ("One of the best science documentaries!" - Bill Kurtis)

Fermilab scientists continued working on the search for the Higgs after the experiments moved from Fermilab to a larger particle accelerator in Europe. After the film screening, a panel of those physicists (some featured in the film) will participate in a discussion explaining the progress since the film's conclusion. The scientists on the panel will include:

- **Ben Kilminster**, staff scientist at Fermilab working on the CDF experiment and on the CMF experiment at CERN; soon to be professor at University of Zurich, Switzerland
- **Richard Cavanaugh**, co-Coordinator of the LHC Physics Center, at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; Associate Professor of Physics, UIC
- **Chris Quigg**, theoretical physicist at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
- **Tom LeCompte**, physicist at Argonne National Laboratory, working on the ATLAS experiment

They panelists will address these questions and any from the audience:

- How research is conducted at Fermilab on the accelerator in Europe
- How collaborative research is done between thousands of physicists across the globe
- Why this discovery was so challenging
- Why this discovery is so significant

No science prerequisites or previous understanding of physics is necessary, just curiosity.



[137 Films](#) is a nonprofit, 501c3 documentary production company based in Chicago that **promotes science literacy through storytelling**. 137 Films creates films out of the stories found in the world of science and strives to entertain, educate and inform by exploring how science's search for answers impacts our cultural, political and personal lives.



[Illinois Science Council](#) ("ISC") is an independent, volunteer-driven 501c3 organization that engages, educates, and entertains the adult public about science and technology in our everyday lives. We showcase the scientists and the research of Chicago-area institutions and companies that make Chicago the nation's true "City of Science."

Fun physics factoid: Stephen Hawking lost a \$100 bet because he predicted that the Higgs particle would not be found.

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We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology. – Carl Sagan

The brain is like a muscle. When it is in use we feel very good. Understanding is joyous. – Carl Sagan