

Contacts:

For Immediate Release

Larry Berger
Executive Director
slb@slbradio.com
412.586.6300

Denise R. Hughes
Media Relations Representative & Philanthropy Coordinator
Dominion Peoples
412.232.6767

**Eighth Graders from Manchester Academic Charter School
Share Reflections via Radio, CD on *The Saturday Light Brigade*
–Recordings to be featured as a summer-long radio series–**

PITTSBURGH, PA – June 1, 2006 – *The Saturday Light Brigade* (SLB), Pittsburgh's award-winning live public radio program for kids and adults is pleased to announce the release of a special radio series featuring 20 students from Manchester Academic Charter School (MACS). The entire eighth grade class at MACS wrote and recorded their reflections as they prepare to move on to high school. The essays were recorded in the SLB studios within the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and will be played as individual students receive diplomas at their June 8, 2006 graduation ceremonies, published to a compilation CD, placed at www.slbradio.com for on-demand listening, and featured on *The Saturday Light Brigade* as a summer-long radio series debuting June 10th. The "fresh voices" of these 13- and 14-year old students are genuine, revealing and -- above all -- inspiring to people of all ages.

To undertake the project, SLB met Ms. Phylissa Washington (MACS Language Arts/Reading Teacher) and Mr. Vasilios Scoumis (MACS Chief Executive Officer) to evaluate the use of audio and radio to promote spoken literacy and self-expression in a manner consistent with Pennsylvania state academic standards. Ms. Washington then prepared the class (20 students) on the basics of self-expression and provided the assignment of preparing a 45-second audio essay on "reflections upon moving on from MACS" (the school is a K-8 school). SLB provided classroom training on writing for the ear, effective verbal communication and microphone usage. Students then composed and recorded their 45-second original essays in the SLB studios.

Funded by the Dominion Foundation, the project has been an outstanding tool to promote verbal literacy, self expression, listening skills, and awareness of the ideas and feelings of others. Mr. Scoumis remarked "this was a tremendous opportunity for our students to work with a neighborhood partner and apply real-time technology to an English project. The students felt as if they were radio stars. We managed to make the world a little smaller while teaching, and also had some fun. They are anxiously awaiting their turns on the radio."

About Manchester Academic Charter School (MACS)

The mission of Manchester Academic Charter School is to empower each child to grow to be an essential component of his or her community by presenting a safe and nurturing atmosphere, utilizing neighborhood and community resources and preparing each child to meet academic standards through technological innovations, individual learning styles, and innovative teaching techniques. The school was launched by local parents, community members and staff members of Manchester Youth Development Center, MYDC (a 30-year old North Side youth education center). This group saw a need for a more personalized education for the children of the North Side. More information can be found at <http://www.macsk8.org>.

About Dominion

The Dominion Foundation is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies. Dominion is one of the nation's largest producers of energy, with an energy portfolio of about 28,100 megawatts of generation. Dominion serves retail energy customers in nine states, including more than 350,000 natural gas customers in western Pennsylvania. For more information about Dominion, visit www.dom.com.

About The Saturday Light Brigade (SLB)

The Saturday Light Brigade (SLB) is a live, award-winning public radio program featuring acoustic music and family fun designed to encourage people of all ages to interact. Broadcast since 1978, it is one of the longest-running public radio programs in the United States. SLB broadcasts live from 6:00 a.m. to noon (Eastern) Saturdays from studios in the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and is carried on WRCT 88.3 FM Pittsburgh (Allegheny and Butler Counties), WSAJ 91.1 FM Grove City (Butler, Mercer, Lawrence, and parts of Clarion, Venango and Beaver Counties), and WURP 1550 AM (Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties). Streaming and on-demand broadcasts are accessible at www.slbradio.com. The radio program is a service of SLB Radio Productions, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that encourages children and adults to be together, respect one another, and learn with each other through the unique medium of radio. More information is available at 412.586.6300, slb@slbradio.com or www.slbradio.com.