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**“ANIMATION” EXHIBIT INVITES VISITORS TO STEP INTO WORLD OF ANIMATION
WITH CARTOON NETWORK CHARACTERS
*Grant from First Niagara helps bring Science, Math and Technology to Life through Animation!***

Hartford, CT *September 28, 2011* — Connecticut Science Center visitors will soon step into the exciting and visually rich world of animation when the 6,000-square-foot, highly interactive exhibit *Animation* featuring Cartoon Network opens at the Connecticut Science Center on October 1st.

The *Animation* exhibit will be on display at Connecticut Science Center from October 1st through March 4th and is presented by local sponsor First Niagara and in partnership with media sponsor, Comcast. In *Animation*'s stimulating and fun environment, visitors explore animation from concept to finished product — from storyboarding, character design, and drawing techniques to movement, timing, filming, and sound. Larger-than-life graphics of popular Cartoon Network characters provide a colorful backdrop to the exhibit, which also explores the history of animation and features a screening room and a cartoon museum.

“In *Animation*, it's about exploring, questioning and experimenting with the science behind the art of animation in a way that makes learning fun,” said Matt Fleury, President & CEO of the Science Center. “Animation has proven to be a powerful and effective tool for engaging and teaching people of all ages about science concepts such as perception, illusion, geometry, and measurement. We are thrilled to have our new neighbor, First Niagara, as the presenting sponsor of this exhibit.”

Local funding to bring the national travelling exhibit to the Science Center was provided through the generosity of First Niagara who will offer discount admission coupons to the public at bank branches throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “Not only does the Connecticut Science Center offer endless learning and science exploration opportunities to children, teens, and adults, it adds to our state's economic vitality by attracting thousands of visitors to our region each year,” said First Niagara New England Regional President David Ring. “We are thrilled to partner with them on this exhibit and all the terrific educational and economic benefits they bring to our community.”

The six thematic areas in the exhibit include: History – Visitors learn about early animation and apparent motion. Animation Studio – Visitors explore the process of animation, story creation, animator techniques and tools. Art in Motion – With help from *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends*, visitors discover why art and math are important allies when creating characters, motion, and change. Science Laboratory – In *Dexter's Laboratory*, visitors can delve into the science and technology that make animation possible. Sound and Stage – Visitors can discover the principles of sound and phonetics with characters from *Chowder*, *Ben 10: Alien Force*, and *Kids Next Door*. Cartoon Museum – Visitors will take a seat in this intimate theater setting and view clips of popular animations while learning the secrets behind their production.

“What this exhibit reveals in full interactive detail is the number of different skills involved in creating animation, from voice-acting and recording to computer programming and scoring, from screenwriting and storyboarding to sound-effects and editing,” said Dennis Adamovich, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Cartoon Network.

In addition, the Connecticut Science Center has teamed with Comcast as the exhibit's local media sponsor. “We are pleased to partner with the Connecticut Science Center and our programming partner, Cartoon Network, to help bring visibility to this creative exhibit,” said Mary McLaughlin, Senior Vice President of Comcast's Western New England Region, which includes Connecticut. “This exhibit

ties in with our commitment to providing children with learning and development opportunities in the communities we serve and we are proud to be part of this exhibit that makes science, math and technology fun!"

Several exhibit areas feature digital slide shows of real animators working in the Cartoon Network studios. Visitors will learn more about the skills and training needed to pursue an animation career. The Animation Exhibit is on display in the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Gallery on the 4th floor of the Connecticut Science Center and is free with the purchase of General Admission or a Science Center Membership.

About the Connecticut Science Center

The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Visitors experience over 150 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events and lectures for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

About Cartoon Network

Cartoon Network, currently seen in nearly 91 million U.S. homes and 160 countries around the world, is Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.'s ad-supported cable service offering the best in animated entertainment. Drawing from the world's largest cartoon library, Cartoon Network showcases unique original series such as *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends*, *The Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy*, *Camp Lazlo*, *Ed, Edd n Eddy* and other exclusive programming. Overnight from 10:30 p.m.-6 a.m. (ET, PT), Cartoon Network shares its channel space with Adult Swim, a late-night destination showcasing original and acquired animation for young adults 18-34. Cartoon Network's Web site is located at www.CartoonNetwork.com [<http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/>](http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/).

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About First Niagara

First Niagara expects to have approximately \$38 billion in assets, \$30 billion in deposits and 450 branches upon completion of its HSBC-branch acquisition, subject to customary regulatory approvals. First Niagara, through its wholly owned subsidiary, First Niagara Bank, N.A., is a multi-state community-oriented bank that currently has \$31 billion in assets, \$19 billion in deposits, 346 branches and 5,000 employees providing financial services to individuals, families and businesses across Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.fnfg.com.

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