



## News from the Connecticut Science Center

Summer Teen Innovation cohort visits the Stanley Black & Decker Manufactory 4.0 in Hartford.

# Building STEM Workforce through Strategic Collaboration

According to the latest Bloomberg U.S. State Innovation Index, Connecticut is home to the nation's fourth-most-innovative economy. While it is not always easy to connect abstract national rankings to real life, from the vantage point of the Connecticut Science Center—which transformed a parking lot into an engine of inspiration—one readily observes a dramatic increase in innovation in our community.

Connecticut in 2019 is vastly changed from a decade ago when the Connecticut Science Center opened its doors. Connecticut envisioned a future when the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields were not only educational mainstays, but also economic drivers. Businesses and educators would work together to build foundations on which future workplace and creative enterprises could flourish. When industry, government, and community leaders came together to create the Science Center, they were making a broader statement about the future of Connecticut and providing our youth a starting point to reach that future.

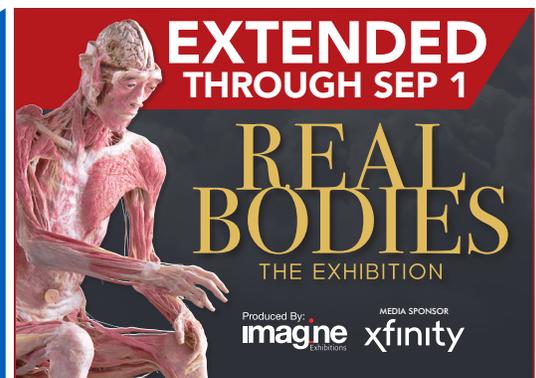


The partnerships that helped build the Science Center remain strong to this day and are more important than ever as we continue to build the dynamic culture and workforce that advances Connecticut's progress. The Science Center shares its downtown Hartford "front door" with Stanley Black & Decker's Manufacturing 4.0 and TechStars centers, MakerspaceCT, Infosys, Upward Hartford, and a host of insurtech, fintech, and medtech innovators. As the region's premier hub for STEM activities, the Science Center continues to work with these key corporate, non-profit, and higher education partners to make Connecticut a synonym for innovation. ■



The Connecticut Science Center inspires lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**



**STEM Career Connections Announcement**  
August 7



**Connecticut Convention Center**  
October 5

## Interactive Play as Real-time Research

Can interactive play be useful for research? Yes! The Living Lab Initiative is returning to the Connecticut Science Center for a seventh year of partnership. Each year, more than 1,400 Science Center visitors participate in the fascinating research happening right here in our own community and witness first-hand what a career in scientific research can be. As in past years, esteemed Behavioral Science researchers from Wesleyan University, UConn, Yale University, Boston University, and Harvard University will set up research stations throughout the galleries and invite families to come and play. Volunteers will participate in activities that further scientific study about child development, language, and psychology. While kids are feeding animals or completing a challenging puzzle, parents can find out more about their children's brain development—and moms and dads can learn what developmental milestones to look for at home. Not only will researchers walk away with useful scientific data, but the public will also learn all about the research process and the vital studies performed right here in Connecticut. ■



Wesleyan University researches cognitive development in the Science Center's Genomics Lab supported by Axinn.



ProHealth Physicians explore healthy vegetable seeds and recipes with Science Center visitors.

## Corporate Partnerships Enrich the Visitor Experience

Community-based medical group ProHealth Physicians, part of OptumCare, is a long-time Science Center partner as well as sponsor of StoryTime and the upcoming *Mazes and Brain Games* exhibition. ProHealth nutritionists and health care professionals frequently visit the Science Center to interact with families, empowering them to improve their health with easy, healthy recipes, or by increasing physical activity in their daily lives through the Healthy Me Program. These encounters teach Science Center visitors to make their own lives healthier and provide an up-close look at Connecticut-based careers in the pediatric health care field. ■



Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

The Connecticut Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For additional information, contact John Bourdeaux, Vice President of Advancement, at (860) 520-2131 or [jboudeaux@CTScienceCenter.org](mailto:jboudeaux@CTScienceCenter.org).

Connecticut Science Center  
250 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103

## American Red Cross: a Multifaceted Approach to Non-Profit Partnership

Introduced to the Science Center by corporate partner Pitney Bowes, non-profit partner the American Red Cross joins the new *Our Changing Earth* exhibition, which opens this fall. Changing weather patterns present a serious threat, and the exhibit will feature information and advice from Red Cross professionals as a call to action for visitors. Behind the scenes, the Red Cross is providing CPR training to Science Center staff and exploring a blood drive at the Science Center that would not only secure important blood donations, but would also highlight the science behind blood and donation. ■



New "Our Changing Earth" Exhibition opens in October.