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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHEFA Support Science Education with \$30K Grant

Funds will support Connecticut Science Center STEM Education Materials and Programs

Hartford, CT— October 23, 2015— The Connecticut Science Center was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) as part of its Not-for-Profit Grant Program.

Located in downtown Hartford, the Connecticut 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. The Science Center provides educational programs throughout the year to student and teachers and features 165 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.



“We are proud to support the Connecticut Science Center in expanding its impressive selection of educational programming,” said Jeanette Weldon, executive director of CHEFA. “These tools will build on classroom learning, and help prepare students for advanced education in science and engineering.”

The Connecticut Science Center will use the funds for educational equipment and materials in classroom laboratories and public programming spaces. Specifically, these improvements will allow the Science Center to integrate stronger connections to technology and engineering into existing programs, develop new curriculum-focused live programs, address Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and better serve more than 325,000 visitors annually, which include students and teachers from every town in the state of Connecticut.

“We are very grateful for CHEFA’s ongoing support of the Connecticut Science Center and STEM Education,” said Hank Gruner, Connecticut Science Center Vice President of Programs. “The impacts that these critical programs have on the community, specifically students and teachers, help us continue to inspire the next generation of creative thinkers and make strong curriculum ties in the classroom.”

The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) recently announced \$1.3 million in grants to 24 nonprofit agencies throughout the state. CHEFA is a quasi-public agency created by the State Legislature to help Connecticut healthcare and educational institutions, and other not-for-profit entities obtain tax exempt financing. CHEFA is self-sustaining and receives no taxpayer funds. For more information about CHEFA, visit www.chefa.com.

For further information, contact Tracy Shirer, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at 860-520-2116 or tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org. For more information about the Connecticut Science Center and The Mandell Academy for Teachers visit CTScienceCenter.org.



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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. Serving 2 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 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 ongoing events 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. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.