

# News from the Connecticut Science Center



Students from Betances Early Reading Lab in Hartford record their observations of volcanic eruptions in the Discovery Center.

## Live Science Experiences at the Science Center

From the ticketing counter to the exhibit entrance to the gallery floors, the bright red shirts of the Connecticut Science Center’s visitor services staff are hard to miss. More than just a friendly customer service staff, this team delivers a wide range of fun and exciting Live Gallery Science demonstrations in the Science Center’s exhibit galleries for museum visitors.

Live Gallery Science programs are short, interactive sessions offered by Science Center staff that engage visitors of all ages, giving them the opportunity to conduct their own experiments and ask questions about the results. Programs introduce young children to the digestive system using a six-foot doll named Stuffee, allow visitors to get up close and personal with reptiles and insects from the Science Center’s live animal collection, challenge students to create working circuits using play dough, make the microbes on a person’s hand glow, and more.

Already popular with weekend and holiday visitors, Live Gallery Science is now available to school audiences as well. Monthly themes and direct connections to the State Science Frameworks make this program a resource for students and teachers. New programs are continuously developed so that there is always something new and exciting to explore at the Science Center. Live Gallery Science at the Science Center is generously funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the LEGO Community Fund U.S. ■



Connecticut  
Science Center

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

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

#### Robotics Day

Saturday, December 12

#### Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion

New exhibit opens  
Saturday, January 30



Women in Science  
at the Connecticut Science Center

**Blazing Quasars and Blazing Trails:**  
A Journey of Discovery  
An evening with Jedidiah Isler, Ph.D.

Wednesday, February 24  
at 6PM



Above and left: Our friendly Science Center staff shares STEM experiences with visitors during Live Gallery Science programs.



## Meet Public Programs Coordinator Megan Dempsey

Connecticut native Megan Dempsey spent six years spreading her love of hands-on learning to Delaware, Philadelphia, and Rhode Island before bringing it back to her home state in 2014. After completing her bachelor's degree at Elon University, Megan began a career in teaching and teacher training. Drawing inspiration from her middle and high school teachers, Megan engaged her classes through exploration and experimentation, showing her students connections between the classroom and the real world. She believes this is key to inspiring a life-long love of learning.

At the Connecticut Science Center, Megan continues her work designing professional development programs that emphasize interactive teaching strategies, while also creating highly engaging public programming, including Live Gallery Science.

"When I'm designing programs, I think about the newest teaching trends and standards, but I also think, 'What's the hook? How will this experience grab attention in less than five minutes and motivate someone to learn more?'" says Megan. "To inspire people, public programs have to be fun and meaningful. I try to achieve this every day at the Science Center." ■



Left: Connecticut Science Center Vice President of Programs, Hank Gruner, and President, Matt Fleury, present partnership banners to New Haven Public Schools and Quinnipiac Real World Magnet Math STEM School administration and staff.

Center and right: Students from Strong 21st Century Communications Magnet School in New Haven using their school's STEM Discovery Room resources.

## Advancing STEM Education in New Haven

New Haven Public Schools and the Connecticut Science Center are partnering to build both teachers' and students' science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills and knowledge. This collaboration includes training for teams of teachers in inquiry-based science instruction delivered by the Connecticut Science Center's Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers.

The Mandell Academy for Teachers is the Connecticut Science Center's high-impact professional development program for educators, offering training that supports rigorous STEM and core curriculum standards. These programs transform classroom instruction, resulting in engaging learning experiences that lead to achievement for all students.

Although New Haven has made gains in Connecticut Mastery Test scores, some students continue to struggle in earth and physical science. In many cases, urban students do not have access to state-of-the-art science labs or the earth science experiences required in the state's Science Curriculum Standards. To address this, Connecticut Science Center exhibit designers collaborated with New Haven school officials to create STEM Discovery Rooms at four New Haven elementary schools, where teachers engage students in hands-on labs and engineering challenges.

New Haven teachers visit the Science Center with their students for field trips, which include 45-minute labs in the Science Center's Discovery Center, presented by Travelers. Teachers observe these labs and learn how to effectively use the spaces and resources in their schools' STEM Discovery Rooms. This collaboration is one of many Science Center partnerships designed to help educators engage students in STEM learning. ■



Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

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