



Media Contact:

Tracy Shirer (tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org)

O: 860.520.2116, C: 860.817.1373

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

560 Guests Jet-set to Connecticut Science Center's 007th Green Gala *Sold-out signature event raises \$490,000 for STEM education and workforce development*

Hartford, CT—September 27, 2016—On Friday, September 23, 560 adults in their finest cocktail attire took a



007th Green Gala Chairs Jeanne Leduc, Monica Hoffman, and Irene Triompo

fabulous field trip to the Pratt & Whitney Hangar in East Hartford to dance, enjoy amazing food and cocktails, try their hands at interactive exhibits, and more at the Connecticut Science Center's sold out 007th Green Gala. Guests did more than dance the night away: they were active contributors to the Science Center's mission to bring fun, interactive STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education and workforce development to students and adult learners throughout Connecticut and beyond. The 007th Green Gala raised \$490,000 for the Connecticut Science Center through sponsorships, ticket sales, and auction bids.

the Science Center, but that didn't stop them from exploring some of the Science Center's signature live science experiences. Poker chip engineering challenges, CO2 race cars, and parachute launchers were among those brought to the Pratt & Whitney Hangar for guests to try. Guests also danced and sang along to live music from one of Boston's favorite bands, Radiance, courtesy of Wilson Stevens Productions. The evening's silent auction provided fantastic opportunities to bid on amazing adventures, including a trip to the 2017 Masters Tournament or a South African Safari adventure; home décor, like a breathtaking tiffany-style lamp; fine wines and dining experiences; and family-oriented getaways, like an incredible Walt Disney World vacation. All proceeds of the silent auction benefit the Science Center's educational mission.

This year, guests enjoyed the first Green Gala held outside of



Science Center Board Chair Tom Barnes



Matt Fleury, Science Center President and CEO

"At the Connecticut Science Center, we strive to bring the wonder of STEM learning to everyone who passes through our doors," said Connecticut Science Center President and CEO Matt Fleury. "Tonight, we celebrate the impact our efforts have had in the lives of our state's children; we are showing them that science and technology aren't just for school, but are an exciting and fun part of everyday life. We believe that the love of STEM instilled in students today will lead to an empowered, innovative, pioneering future workforce in Connecticut. Our Green Gala celebrates both the exhilaration of discovery and the generous support of the people and organizations in attendance tonight, without whom we couldn't continue our important work."

Special guests at the 007th Green Gala included Governor Dannel P. Malloy, who has long been a champion of the Science Center's efforts, as well as Senator Richard Blumenthal. Guests were treated to remarks from Connecticut Science Center Board Chair Tom Barnes and Vice Chair J. Michael McQuade

Said Tom Barnes, Chairman of the Connecticut Science Center's Board of Trustees, "The Green Gala has grown every year, and every year has helped make it possible for the Science Center to serve thousands of visitors seeking new and exciting experiences that bring STEM principles to life. We would like to thank this year's lead Green Gala sponsors, United Technologies and Travelers, as well as our hosts, Pratt & Whitney, and our Green Gala Committee chairs Monica Hoffman, Jeanne Leduc, and Irene Triompo. Through their extraordinary efforts, this evening has been a well-deserved commemoration of the Science Center's success."

Next year's Green Gala date will be announced soon. A photo gallery from this year's celebration is available at CTScienceCenter.org/gala.

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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 more than 2 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries covering 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.