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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center to Introduce Next Generation Science Standards for Schools to the Connecticut Business Community

What do the NGSS mean for the workforce of tomorrow?

HARTFORD, CT (May 12, 2017) – In collaboration with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association's Education and Workforce Partnership (CBIA EWP), the Connecticut Science Center will host "The Science of Workforce Development: Next Generation Science Standards and Tomorrow's Talent" on June 13, 2017. The event, presented with support from the State of Connecticut Department of Education, will introduce the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and their anticipated outcomes for the business community. A panel discussion will highlight the event, which will also feature a networking breakfast.

"The content and methodology of science education is evolving in exciting ways across the country and here in Connecticut," said Matt Fleury, President & CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. "This has implications for teaching, learning and practicing science skills at school and in careers, making this an important conversation for educators and industry."

The Next Generation Science Standards is a new set of standards for schools that feature three dimensions: core science ideas, scientific and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts. The collaboration of these three dimensions through the new standards allows for teaching that reflects science and engineering in the real world. NGSS not only strengthens the foundation of teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) but also on communication, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving – qualities that are essential to our future workforce.

"The education and retention of a qualified workforce is a serious challenge in the State of Connecticut," said Andrea Comer, Vice President, Workforce Strategies at the CBIA EWP. "With sophisticated and successful manufacturing, aerospace, and biomedical industries producing great results in our state, we must focus on the complete, long-term needs of each sector, including a qualified workforce. We must address this challenge at every level of our education system, and implementing the NGSS will help ensure that our workforce pipeline is robust."

Department of Education Commissioner Dianna Wentzell will discuss the introduction of the Next Generation Science Standards in the State of Connecticut, the three dimensions of the NGSS, their impact on teaching and learning, and the long-term impact on workforce development in Connecticut.

A multi-industry panel discussion moderated by CBIA Education & Workforce Partnership Vice President, Workforce Strategies Andrea Comer will follow the presentation. The panel includes Commissioner Wentzell; James Fairweather, Senior Vice President, Technology and E-Commerce at Pitney Bowes; Carlos Figueroa, Vice President of Engagement & Volunteerism at Travelers; Dave Smith, Director, Global EH&S at Pratt & Whitney; Diana Mahoney, Director – Planning, Scheduling & Contract Services at Eversource; and Ky Nam-Wortman, SVP & Head of Human Resources at Achillion.

“The Science of Workforce Development” will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. This event is free; however pre-registration is required.

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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 over 2.5 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.