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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBM Charitable Foundation Awards Grant to the Connecticut Science Center

SBM Charitable Foundation awards grant to support STEM education programs for East of the River Public Schools

Hartford, CT – August 24, 2017 – In a continuing partnership, the SBM Charitable Foundation has awarded the Connecticut Science Center with a \$100,000 grant to support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and field trips for school districts east of the Connecticut River. The Science Center's student programs are designed to reinforce in-school science education with an out-of-school learning experience to foster positive student learning and engagement.

Beginning in 2010, the partnership between SBM Charitable Foundation and the Connecticut Science Center has provided STEM programs to classes in East Hartford, Manchester, Vernon, and Windham. Since the inception of this partnership, SBM Charitable Foundation has enabled the Connecticut Science Center to provide STEM programs and field trips to thousands of students.

"Partnerships like this allow the Connecticut Science Center to live its mission," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center CEO and President. "These funds provide not only a rich experience with STEM for students but also continuing education for teachers resulting in positive academic changes in East of the River districts."

With the funds provided by the SBM Charitable Foundation, the Connecticut Science Center has been able to provide professional development training for teachers implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the State's recently adopted science teaching framework. The professional development programs help inspire children to take a greater interest in science and channel a pathway for Connecticut's own future thinkers and innovators, a key component of our future workforce..

It is the mission of the Connecticut Science Center to inspire lifelong learning through hands-on, interactive, and innovative experiences while exploring our changing world through science. Through supporting professional development programs and allowing STEM programs to reach these students, SBM Charitable Foundation allows the Connecticut Science Center to deliver mission-driven programs that bring text books to life. For information about Connecticut Science Center field trips and classroom programs, visit CTScienceCenter.org/education.

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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.