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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Genomics Education and Workforce Development at the Connecticut Science Center

### *Science Center opens a new Genomics Lab, supported by Axinn*

HARTFORD, CT (March 29, 2018) – With Connecticut standing at the forefront of a scientific and technological revolution, the Connecticut Science Center is thrilled to open an all-new Genomics Laboratory supported by Hartford law firm Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider. Through the Genomics Lab, the Science Center will introduce families, students, and educators not only to the fields of genomics and genetics, but also to the career pathways in biosciences, health care, and information technology.

Research gains in the genomics field have been consistently out-pacing public awareness. Aiming to fill this gap, the Genomics Lab will offer a variety of programs focused on awareness and dispelling common misconceptions of everyday questions and debates such as how our traits are inherited, ethical considerations of genetically modified food sources, and more. With the expertise of a dedicated Genetics Educator, Melissa Garafola, the Genomics Lab will feature public programming delving into topics such as DNA extraction and sequencing presented through fully hands-on demonstrations. Student-focused programming for field trip students and professional development for teachers will also be developed and deployed in the coming years.

“The Connecticut Science Center is pleased to work with Axinn to engage and inspire the next generation in our all-new Genomics Laboratory,” said Connecticut Science Center President and CEO Matt Fleury. “Allowing visitors to have an accessible hands-on experience with fields such as genomics helps to shape and grow the future workforce of STEM in Hartford.”

The Connecticut Science Center looks forward to presenting engaging education programs in a dedicated space that features equipment and activities unique to the field of genomics. From public programming to professional development, the genomics lab will serve a variety of individuals, increasing not only awareness of the field but also the education process required to engage Connecticut’s next generation workforce. Axinn’s support, coupled with support from Ensign-Bickford Industries and Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, will ensure this important scientific topic is introduced to future generations.

Axinn Partner John Tanski recently stated, “Axinn is thrilled to partner with the Connecticut Science Center to support the Genomics Laboratory. A significant part of our practice involves working with life sciences

clients, and it's wonderful to have a cutting-edge institution right across the street from our Hartford office that inspires the next generation of life science innovators. We are excited for Connecticut's kids to see how interesting the field of genomics can be."

The Genomics Lab is located on Level 5 of the Science Center. Public programming is included with the cost of General Admission or Connecticut Science Center Membership. The official ribbon cutting of the Genomics Lab was held on March 11th. For more information about the Connecticut Science Center, visit [CTScienceCenter.org](http://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 over 2.7 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](http://CTScienceCenter.org) or (860) SCIENCE.

### **About Axinn**

Axinn is a different kind of law firm. It combines the skills, experience and dedication of the world's largest firms with the focus, responsiveness, efficiency and attention to client needs of the best boutiques. Established in the late 1990s by lawyers from premier Wall Street firms with a common vision, Axinn has been joined by lawyers from the best firms and law schools who share that vision. Axinn is devoted to providing the highest conceivable quality of service in three practice areas: antitrust, intellectual property and high-stakes litigation.