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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Engineering Concepts Come to Life in Exciting New Exhibition

Engineering Lab Exhibition presented by Stanley Black & Decker opens July 27

HARTFORD, CT (July 27, 2018) – The Connecticut Science Center is excited to announce the opening of the *Engineering Lab*, a new permanent exhibition presented by Stanley Black & Decker. The *Engineering Lab* showcases state of the art technology alongside classic mechanical marvels in an immersive, hands-on exhibition with 18 brand new experiences inspired by engineering from the past, present, and future.

This new exhibit will educate visitors in various engineering disciplines, drive interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and make connections to career paths, all while visitors have a fun, engaging experience. The exhibition is part of the Science Center's mission to raise awareness of STEM-related opportunities in Connecticut, and cultivate interest among children at their most impressionable ages while driving the state's new science curriculum.

"At Stanley Black & Decker, our goal is to empower makers and inspire the next generation of kids to get excited about science and technology," said Rhonda Gass, Stanley Black & Decker's Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "The Science Center is an engaging setting for people of all ages and we're excited to introduce them to engineering concepts through unique hands-on experiences."

Through five engineering specialties – structural, mechanical, electrical, aerospace, and software engineering – the *Engineering Lab* highlights interactive components that incorporate problem-solving within each discipline – now and in the future. Stories of creativity guide visitors of all ages to see how engineering principles apply to real-world jobs solving interesting challenges while embracing the key elements of the engineering design process. In addition to these main engineering areas, there are interactive elements featuring engineering "trivia" which are revealed by utilizing tools donated by Stanley Black & Decker brands including Craftsman, DEWALT, STANLEY and more.

"Engineering is a core component of the Next Generation Science Standards, the educational framework for teaching science in the State of Connecticut, and this exhibition will give teachers and students an opportunity to see those concepts in action," said Matt Fleury, President and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. "In this way, the engineering disciplines presented represent an important starting point for our visitors to explore educational opportunities that will undoubtedly shape their future."

The Engineering Lab is a significant enhancement to the Science Center's Level 4 gallery with 18 new experiences. It serves as a complement to the wide array of hands-on activities and exhibits that the Science Center features in its 10 galleries, and an extension of the Center's ongoing expansion and growth.

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Exhibition Highlights:

Structural Engineering

Create structures with building blocks and see how well they withstand a simulated earthquake. Use the interactive touch screen to learn about how structural engineering feats of the past and present can be used to help engineer the future.

Mechanical Engineering

Hoist yourself from the floor into the air using a simple pulley system that demonstrates mechanical advantage first-hand. Use the interactive touch screen to learn about related mechanical marvels and their unique functions.

Electrical Engineering

Create circuits to power fans and lights and use the touch screen to learn about how electrical engineering is used in our day-to-day lives by fixing broken traffic control systems.

Aerospace Engineering

Try your hand at three different high-stakes rescue missions. Pay special attention to the instructions you're given to build the helicopter that will allow you to carry out your mission safely and successfully.

Software Engineering

Practice software coding to create programs to control a Mars rover in a fun game. Use the interactive touch screen to see how software engineering is used at the Science Center in this introduction to object-oriented computer programming.

The *Engineering Lab* aligns with the new Next Generation Science Standards that will be fully implemented in Connecticut schools by 2020. The *Engineering Lab* is part of the Science Center's *Science Forward* initiative, which will continue with the deployment of a new earth systems exhibition in 2019 and a genomics exhibition in 2020.

Admission to the *Engineering Lab* Exhibition is included with Science Center General Admission or Membership. For information about tickets and operating hours, visit 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 2.5 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.

