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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 1, 2018**– In a continuing partnership, the SBM Charitable Foundation has awarded the Connecticut Science Center with a \$112,000 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 the in-school science education with an out-of-school learning experience to foster positive student learning and engagement.

Since 2010, the SBM Charitable Foundation has generously provided funding for Science Center programs in East Hartford, Manchester, Vernon, and Windham. In 2011, the Science Center began multi-year partnerships with East Hartford, Willimantic, and Windham Public School Districts. More recently, thanks to the SBM Charitable Foundation support in 2016, the Science Center deepened our partnership with the Manchester Public School District with professional development for teachers.

“Funds from SBM Charitable Foundation have supported not only thousands of student experiences over the years; they have also allowed the Science Center to develop lasting relationships with the school districts, their teachers, and their administrators,” said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center CEO and President. “These funds provide not only the students a rich experience with STEM but 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 teachers with professional development training for teachers implementing of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the state’s newly adopted science standards. 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.

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](http://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](http://CTScienceCenter.org) or (860) SCIENCE.