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Connecticut Science Center Welcomes New Trustees

The Connecticut Science Center is pleased to welcome two new trustees. Elected to the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Science Center are **Dr. Marja Hurley**, Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery at UConn Health, and **Michael Rawlins**, Principal User Experience Design Architect at The Walt Disney Company.

“Marja and Michael are exemplary leaders who embody the mission of the Connecticut Science Center in their professional lives and in their work in our community,” said William Malugen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Science Center and Travelers Executive Vice President and President, National Accounts. “In addition to being leaders in their respective fields, they have first-hand experience in motivating the next generation of STEM inspired youth. Their perspectives are invaluable to our efforts.”

Since the opening in 2009, the Science Center has served more than 3.25 million people. The Science Center offers more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries. Since the Science Center reopened its doors in accordance with the Reopen Connecticut plan, visitors have engaged in the exhibits that they have come to know and love in a safe, clean environment as well as see the blockbuster traveling exhibit *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*, which has been extended through the end of the year.

“The Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Science Center is an extraordinary group of volunteers who guide, support, and lead us as we engage in our vital mission work,” said Connecticut Science Center President & CEO, Matt Fleury. “We are grateful for the contributions of energy, time, and expertise that each brings, and we are excited to add Marja and Michael to this exceptional group.” For a complete list of current Trustees, please visit CTScienceCenter.org/about/board-of-trustees.

The Connecticut Science Center presents a wide range of topics reflecting the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in its skyline-defining building along the Connecticut River in downtown Hartford. Exhibits include explorations of human health, 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. With a focus on creating the next generation of our workforce, the STEM Career Connections program also introduces children, teachers, and caregivers to the jobs that are available in Connecticut-based companies including health care, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, and more.

About Dr. Marja Hurley



Pioneering physician-scientist Dr. Marja Hurley, a professor of medicine and orthopaedic surgery at UConn Health, is renowned for her three decades of NIH-funded bone research and inspiring the next generation of doctors and scientists.

Hurley was the first woman of color to receive a medical degree from UConn School of Medicine, the first to become a tenured full professor, and has founded and directed for two decades its Health Career Opportunity Programs attracting more young people from across Connecticut, of all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, to medicine and science.

In fact, of the nearly 900 youth from the state's elementary schools, high schools, and colleges participating in her 14 distinct Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative sponsored programs since 1996, more than 700 have gone on to enter medical, dental, or other health profession schools. She has nurtured the biomedical science career development of students at every level of the pipeline substantially increasing the number of underrepresented and first generation students attending the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.

Recipient of numerous awards for teaching, science, and STEM student mentoring some of Hurley's past accolades include the Connecticut Technology Council Women of Innovation and Leadership Award, the UConn Health Board of Directors Faculty Recognition Award, UConn's Carole and Ray Neag Medal of Honor, and the Lawrence G. Raisz Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) for outstanding achievements in preclinical and translational research. She is an elected fellow of ASBMR and the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. UConn named Hurley one of its most outstanding women in 100 years and she serves as its liaison to the AAMC Group on Women in Medicine and Science.

In addition, Hurley is recognized nationally as a leader in education equity and has been appointed to several key committees in education both in medicine and dentistry locally and nationally, and is an invited speaker at national meetings. Recently she was named chair elect of the Oversight Committee of NIH, NIDDK Network of Minority Health Research Investigators.

About Michael Rawlins



Michael Rawlins is the Principal User Experience Design Architect for The Walt Disney Company. He is the past Vice President of the User Experience Professionals Association (EXPA.org) and President Emeritus of CT UXPA. He is a proven expert in user experience, design, ethnographic research, and usability testing. Rawlins was also invited instructor at the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. He is the immediate past President for the A Better Chance program in Glastonbury, CT and a former board member of the famous Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT. He is a member of the Human Factors Advisory Board for AbleVets. Rawlins is a graduate of Hobart College, and a member of the Board of Trustees. He has been awarded the President's Award for Volunteerism, awarded by the White House (sponsored by the Walt Disney Company).

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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 more than 3.25 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 the state's only year-round butterfly habitat, five 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 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.