



Media Contact:
Tracy Shirer tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org
W: 860.520.2116, C: 860.817.1373
Connecticut Science Center
250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Announces New Trustees

Dempsey, Parekh, and Burke elected to the Board of Trustees

Hartford, CT (March 19, 2021) – The Connecticut Science Center is pleased to welcome three new Trustees. In a unanimous vote, elected to the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Science Center are **Thomas Burke**, President, Saint Francis Hospital, **Patrick Dempsey**, President and CEO, Barnes Group, and **David Parekh, PhD**, Retired Corporate Vice President, Research, and Director, United Technologies Research Center.

“Great volunteer leadership at the board level is the hallmark of institutions that are deeply connected to and valued and supported by their communities, and this continues to be a vital attribute of the Connecticut Science Center,” said Matt Fleury, President & CEO. “We are grateful and proud that Patrick Dempsey, David Parekh and Tom Burke have chosen to invest their time, talent and leadership in the Connecticut Science Center and we are excited to work with them going forward.”

Since the opening in 2009, the Science Center has served more than 3.5 million people and 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 seen the blockbuster traveling exhibit *Dinosaurs Around the World* as well as the new permanent exhibition *Genome in Me*.

For a complete list of current Trustees, please visit CTScienceCenter.org/about/board-of-trustees

About Patrick Dempsey



Patrick Dempsey is President and Chief Executive Officer, Barnes Group Inc. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Company's Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Dempsey joined Barnes Group from President, Windsor Airmotive in 2000 to lead and strategically position the Company's Aerospace Aftermarket business for future growth. He was later promoted to Group Vice President, Operations for Barnes Aerospace, expanding his responsibilities for both the OE production and Aftermarket segments. In 2004, Mr. Dempsey was appointed a Company Officer and President of

Barnes Aerospace. He was subsequently promoted to President, Barnes Distribution to lead the Company's expansion in its North American and European distribution businesses. In 2008, he was

appointed as President, Logistics and Manufacturing Services, Barnes Group Inc. In 2012, he was promoted to Chief Operating Officer and President, Barnes Industrial before becoming President and Chief Executive Officer, Barnes Group Inc. in 2013.

Prior to joining Barnes Group, Mr. Dempsey held a number of senior management positions at United Technologies Corporation, Pratt and Whitney Division, serving as President, HAC Division, and General Manager, TCT and DPRO Divisions. Mr. Dempsey also served in several leadership positions at Interturbine Corporation.

Mr. Dempsey holds a Bachelor's degree in Technology (Education) from the University of Limerick, Ireland, and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Michigan. He serves on the Board of Directors for Nucor Corporation and also serves on the Board of Trustees for Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI).

About David Parekh, PhD



As Corporate Vice President, Research, and Director, United Technologies Research Center (UTRC), David Parekh, PhD provided global leadership for United Technologies Corporation's (UTC) central research organization. In this role, he developed technology strategies in anticipation of future trends and aligned the Research Center's breakthrough innovations for a transition to UTC's business units to enable their growth. Under his leadership, UTRC grew over 50% globally, establishing new research facilities in Silicon Valley and several European locations. During his tenure, UTRC established numerous research partnerships around the globe in areas such as autonomy, additive manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings, and robotics. UTRC also led the monetization of UTC's intellectual property in adjacent markets through its Innovation Business Development Group.

Prior to joining United Technologies Research Center in 2007, Dr. Parekh served as deputy director of Georgia Tech Research Institute and associate vice provost for research at the university. While there, he founded Georgia Tech Ireland and established the Georgia Tech Fuel Cell and Battery Center. Early in his career, he led various advanced research programs at Boeing Phantom Works and McDonnell Douglas Research Laboratories.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Dr. Parekh is also a member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE). He recently served on the Board of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and previously served on the boards of the DOD Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Institute and the DOE Energy Efficient Buildings Hub. Prior service also includes roles on the Connecticut Technology Council board, the advisory board of the Georgia Tech College of Engineering, the Defense Science Board's Task Force on Energy Strategy, and the National Research Council's Aeronautics Research and Technology Roundtable.

Dr. Parekh earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in mechanical and electrical engineering from Stanford University, as well as a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

About Thomas Burke



Thomas Burke, BPharm, MBA was named President of Saint Francis Hospital on November 13, 2020. Burke, who joined the Saint Francis team in 2016, served as Interim President since May 2020, taking on the leadership role in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to being named to the Interim President role, Mr. Burke had successfully led the clinical and operational support services, as well as productivity management for Saint Francis. Mr. Burke's extensive experience in senior-level leadership positions includes Vice President for Financial Operations at Prospect Medical Holdings and Vice President of Operations at Waterbury Hospital. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and he achieved his Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Thomas Burke also gained further leadership experience by participating in Trinity Health's Strategic Leadership Program (SLP) for executive leaders. The Strategic Leadership Program is an intensive, 20-month program that provides a customized, interactive, high-impact learning experience and develops the skills, knowledge, and strategic perspectives required to address the challenges facing today's health care leaders. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and a Master of Business Administration from Saint Joseph's University, also in Philadelphia.

###

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 3.5 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 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.