



News from the Connecticut Science Center

Connecticut Science Center's Nassau Science Plaza Now an Official Pollinator Pathways Stop

The Connecticut Science Center's Nassau Science Plaza, adjacent to the upper Connecticut River greenway, includes more than 40,000 sq feet of engineered green roof garden systems showcasing the value of urban biodiversity. In addition to the sustainability benefits of a green roof, the gardens contain more than 70 species of native plants providing a hotspot for nectar diversity that attracts a wide variety of pollinators. In 2023 the Connecticut Science Center Nassau Plaza was named an official stop on the CT Pollinator Pathway.

Pollinator pathways are an increasingly popular concept in Connecticut and beyond, as more people recognize the critical role that these insects play in our ecosystem. Pollinators are responsible for fertilizing many of the plants that we rely on for food, including fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Without them, our food system would be severely impacted, and many species of plants could disappear entirely.

In Connecticut, efforts are underway to create pollinator pathways that connect natural areas and habitats across the state. These pathways, like the Connecticut Science Center's Nassau Science Plaza, are designed to provide food, shelter, and other resources for pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This includes planting native wildflowers, reducing pesticide use, and creating habitats such as butterfly gardens. By creating these pathways and supporting the insects that depend on them, we can ensure that our food system remains intact and that our natural world remains vibrant and healthy for generations to come.

In addition to their ecological importance, pollinator pathways can also have a significant economic impact. By supporting pollinators, we are also supporting the agricultural industry, which relies on these insects to pollinate crops. In Connecticut, agriculture is a vital part of the state's economy, and pollinators are essential to the success of this industry.

The benefits of pollinator pathways extend far beyond the insects themselves. By supporting these vital creatures, we are helping to promote biodiversity and protect our environment. Pollinator pathways can help to restore degraded areas and reduce erosion, and they can even help to mitigate the effects of climate change. ■

ADOPT A BUTTERFLY!

When you symbolically adopt a tropical butterfly at the Connecticut Science Center you are not only creating lasting memories; but you are also supporting our mission and programs.

With your symbolic adoption, you will receive a certificate, photo, and information about one of the more than 40 species that thrive in our Butterfly Encounter habitat, making this unique experience not just beautiful; but also, educational. **For more information call Cassandra Weston, Annual Fund Manager at (860) 520-2134.**



Connecticut
Science Center 



The Connecticut Science Center inspires lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science.

Announcing the 2023 STEM Achievement and Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award Honorees

Each year, the Connecticut Science Center celebrates the achievements of professionals, groups, advocates, businesses, students, and leaders who share our mission. Honorees for the 2023 STEM Achievement Awards are selected based on overall contributions to STEM in the region, opening STEM Careers to diverse audiences, and impacts on STEM Education in the community.

The Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Awards recognizes a professional woman and a student who are leaders in their chosen STEM field based on their demonstrated commitment to advancing STEM through thoughtful engagement with diverse audiences and by making a significant effort to support other women and girls in their pursuit of STEM as learners, teachers, and professionals. **Awards will be presented at the Connecticut Science Center Gala: Gotham City on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Connecticut Convention Center.**

STEM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREES



K-12 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

RICHARD MCCARTHY

Frank Ward Strong Middle School, Durham, CT

Dr. Richard McCarthy (Dr. Mac), with degrees from University of Illinois and Yale, brought real-world experience to his teaching and research roles. He taught in Connecticut public schools for 23 years, including science at Frank Ward Strong Middle School for 21 years.



HIGHER EDUCATION HONOREE

ROSE KARVANDI

B.S. Physiology & Neurobiology, UCONN '23

Rose Karvandi, a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut Honors Program, is on the path to medical school. Committed to empowering women in STEM, she founded a Girls in STEM Program, and is involved in research, community advocacy, and mentoring.



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION HONOREE

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Hartford, CT

The Women's League Child Development Center is Greater Hartford's largest single-site early education center, accommodating 208 children. Recently, they opened a pioneering STEAM Learning Lab, aimed at providing equitable access to STEAM education for

Hartford's young Black and Brown learners, fostering future scientists, technology experts, engineers, and mathematicians.



INNOVATOR HONOREE (INDIVIDUAL)

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, SR.

CEO at iCleanse

Chris Allen, an experienced entrepreneur, is the CEO of iCleanse. He transformed it from phone disinfection to a worldwide Swift UV station rollout and interactive digital out of home experience, Chris has backed startups, served on boards, and championed philanthropy, inspiring future STEM professionals across Connecticut.

INNOVATOR HONOREE (ORGANIZATION)

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Electric Boat

General Dynamics Electric Boat designs, constructs, and maintains nuclear submarines for the U.S. Navy. Based in Groton, Connecticut, it employs more than 20,500 people. Founded in 1899, the company sets high standards for submarine design, construction, and lifecycle support.



YOUTH HONOREE

NYASIA M. PITTS

**Connecticut Science Center
Teen Innovation Participant**

A former Connecticut Science Center Teen Innovation Ambassador, Nyasia graduated from Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy and attends Southern Connecticut State University's nursing program. Her exceptional leadership skills make her a respected figure among her peers.

PETIT FAMILY FOUNDATION WOMEN IN SCIENCE LEADERSHIP HONOREES



TRACY PROPHTER-HINKLEY

**Design Deputy Chief / Hot Section Engineering
Airfoil, PL3 Aftermarket & Sustainment
Engineering (ASE), Pratt & Whitney**

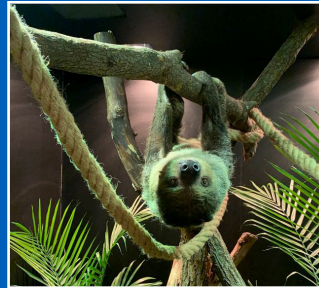
At Pratt & Whitney, Tracy's extensive experience includes airfoil design, major and minor redesigns, with more than 200 patents conceived. Her innovative perspective led her to a Deputy Design



Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Matt Fleury (Science Center President & CEO), and Elizabeth Shapiro (DECD) at Exhibition Ribbon Cutting



Visitor Experience Team Welcomes Famous Plumbers



Hanging out with Romeo in *Under the Canopy*



Women in Science Honoree Tracy Prophet-Hinkley wraps interview with Dr. William A. Petit, Jr.

Engineering position at Pratt & Whitney. Tracy's community engagement includes volunteering for the Girl Scouts, and her interests range widely from painting to baking.



ASHLEY MALKIN
Greenwich High School,
Student Honoree

Ashley Malkin, a Greenwich High School student, is an accomplished AI and neuroscience researcher. Receiving accolades from Regeneron ISEF and CT Science Fair and presenting at the 2023 World Congress of Neuroscience, she's the founder of ScienceGirls!, mentoring 150+ girls, and conducts research at Harvard's Center for Bioethics and MIT's neurolinguistics lab.

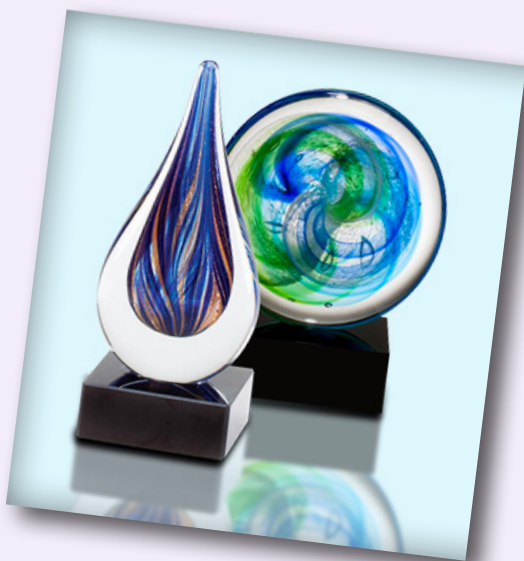
Teen Innovation Ambassadors Host Annual Showcase



The Teen Innovation program at the Connecticut Science Center provides youth, primarily from under-resourced communities in Connecticut, with opportunities to develop problem-solving skills, gain confidence, and explore STEM career and college pathways.

Over the summer, the Teen Innovation Ambassadors created original programs and exhibits that demonstrate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) topics to others. The program allowed them to explore different areas of STEM, design and deliver public programs, work as part of a team, and develop communication and critical thinking skills.

The Teen Innovation program is made possible by major support from The Gawlicki Family Foundation and the Liberty Bank Foundation. Additional supporters include Bank of America Charitable Foundation, HSB, Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Ross Memorial Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, M&T Charitable Foundation, and Berkshire Bank Foundation.



UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CENTER GALA
GOTHAM CITY

Saturday, October 14, 2023
6:30PM-MIDNIGHT
 at the Connecticut Convention Center

Connecticut Science Center

Science Center Preview Day
SEPTEMBER 16

Silent Auction opens online
OCTOBER 4

TICKETS AT CTSCIENCECENTER.ORG/GALA

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Forest of Illusions Exhibit Opens**
October 7
- **Observe the Moon Day**
October 20
- **Spooktacular Science**
October 21
- **Open for Election Day**
November 7
- **STEM Career Showcases**
November 3 & December 5
- **Polar PJ Party**
December 1

FAN ART



Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

The Connecticut Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
 For additional information, contact:
April Paterno, Vice President of Development - 860.520.2129 | apaterno@ctsciencecenter.org or
Whitney Gray, Director of Institutional Giving - 860.520.2124 | wgray@ctsciencecenter.org
 Connecticut Science Center, 250 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103