



**CARNEGIE
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CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

MEDIA ALERT

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**PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR TO SHOWCASE
REGION'S BRIGHTEST SCIENCE STUDENTS**
MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN 72ND ANNUAL COMPETITION

PITTSBURGH, March 29, 2011— *Does Cell Phone Use Affect Reaction Time? How Does Recycled Laundry Water Affect Plant Root Growth? To Wii or not to Wii? Does the Flex of a Hockey Stick Affect the Shot's Velocity? Which Lunch Box Keeps Your Lunch the Coolest?*

On April 1, 2011, more than 1000 middle and high school students will present answers to these fascinating questions and many more, at the 72nd annual Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF). Students will compete for \$1 million in cash prizes and scholarships at Heinz Field.

Bright and early on April 1, students will arrive at Heinz Field to begin setting up the science projects that they designed and implemented during the past several months. Judging will take place throughout the day, and winners will be selected for each category based on scientific thought, experimental method, analytical approach, and visual and oral presentation. Categories include: behavioral/social science, biology, chemistry, computer science/math, consumer science, earth/space/environment, engineering/robotics, medicine/health/microbiology, and physics. There also is a team category for the junior and intermediate levels.

Up to four students from the Science Fair's Senior Division (grades 9–12) are eligible to win an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles, Calif., to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair from May 8–13, 2011.

Sponsors of the Science Fair give more than 100 awards of \$50, a medal, and a certificate. Regional universities, like Carnegie Mellon University, Carlow University, Allegheny College, and more, grant select students monetary awards to put towards college tuition.

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"The students who participate in the Science Fair have worked many hours on their projects, and it is important that we celebrate them with the same enthusiasm as we celebrate student athletes," says Ann Metzger, co-director of the Science Center. "The number of careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math is growing each year, and it is inspiring to see the achievements of the next generation of innovators."

"We are proud that this year's science fair has a record number of student participants," says Ron Baillie, co-director of the Science Center. "Competitions like science fairs give students confidence not only in subject matter, but also in the 21st century work skills needed to succeed in a global economy."

The Science Fair's awards ceremony will begin at 9:30 am on Friday, April 1, and will feature Vonda J. Wright, MD, from the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine, as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Vonda Wright has gained national prominence as an orthopedic surgeon, author, speaker, team sports physician, researcher, and entrepreneur. One of only a few female orthopaedic surgeons in the country, Dr. Wright has made television appearances on *The Dr. Oz Show* and CNN, among others.

"Each year, the Science Fair brings together the future leaders in the fields of science and technology. This event gives students a chance to show off their hard work, and to meet other students that share their same interest in science," says Lisa Kosick, director of the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair. "We congratulate every student who participates, as well as all of the teachers and parents for their support and encouragement."

Following the PRSEF, students who have won first place category awards will display their projects in Carnegie Science Center's Atrium, located on the first floor of the main building. The projects will remain on display until Sunday, April 10.

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Members of the media may view exhibits and interview students from 2–4 pm on Friday, April 1, and are invited to attend the awards ceremony from 9:30–11 am on Saturday, April 2.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2009, the museums reached more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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