



**CARNEGIE  
SCIENCE  
CENTER**

*One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh*

**MEDIA ALERT**

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**STUDENTS TO EXPLORE CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

***SCITECH DAYS TO ENGAGE MORE THAN 3,400 STUDENTS***

**PITTSBURGH, March 3, 2011** —Carnegie Science Center hosts regional students to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) during SciTech Days on March 8–11, 2011. More than 3,400 students will be onsite during this four-day program, including more than 900 seventh-graders from the Pittsburgh Public Schools through funding by the Center for Inclusion at UPMC.

All students will have the opportunity to interact with dozens of scientists and regional innovators from universities and companies representing some of the fastest growing industries in our economy: alternative energy, biotech, nanotech, infotech, engineering, environmental technology, entertainment technology, advanced materials, and robotics.

Held each spring and fall, SciTech Days provides schools, teachers, and students a unique opportunity to engage in informal science learning through a variety of demonstrations and special workshops presented by local scientists and industry leaders. Throughout the building, students embark on a whirlwind “tour de science,” stopping at information tables, participating in hands-on activities, and getting passports stamped as they make their way through the Tech Zone. Middle school days are March 8–9, while high school days are March 10–11. All programs are tailored to the appropriate grade levels and satisfy a variety of academic anchors and standards. Several programs are geared to gifted and advanced students.

“During SciTech Days, we are always thrilled at the spirit of collaboration and the synergy among schools, educators, community members, Science Center staff, and students,” says Linda Ortenzo, director of STEM programs. “Only at Carnegie Science Center can students have tons of fun, while making meaningful connections to so many important advancements in science and technology that are happening right here in our region.”

Programs like SciTech Days prepare students for tomorrow’s workforce by exposing them to a variety of careers and practical applications of STEM. According to Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, approximately 11,600 green energy jobs will be added to the state by 2015, while 100,000 manufacturing jobs will need to be filled to replace the current retiring workforce. Carnegie Science Center is committed to inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators through hands-on learning that occurs outside of the classroom.

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## **Students explore careers in science and technology at spring SciTech Days event at Carnegie Science Center**

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“SciTech Days offer so many exciting activities for students of all ages, and our mission is to ensure that students have access to opportunities that prepare them for careers in science and technology”, says Ortenzo. “About one-third of our participants come from underserved districts, and their visits are made possible by grants and scholarships. We are very thankful and hope to grow that ratio in the coming years.”

Workshops include *Vibrant Oceans, Healthy Planet*, a program that digs into the effects of oil spills; *DNA & CSI*, where students discover what goes into real crime scene investigation and how new technology related to capturing DNA has enabled progress in the field; *Real Food Rocks!*, a program that uncovers the truth behind meats and produce treated with antibiotics and chemicals; and advanced sessions for the Nanotechnology Workshop and the Robotics Workshop.

Dozens of organizations will discuss their research and let students explore the latest technology through interactive exhibits that engage, inspire, and entertain. Among the most popular is FedEx Ground’s fast-paced package scanning race, where students use high-tech equipment employed in the field.

Other notable organizations that will host exhibit tables include PPG Industries, Inc., the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation.

SciTech Days is made possible by the generous support of more than 100 foundations, corporations, and professional organizations throughout the region, including Bayer Corporation, FedEx Ground, The Buhl Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, United States Steel Corporation, Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation, and PPG Industries, Inc.

### **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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