CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER TO HOST STUDENT ENERGY SUMMIT
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EXPLORE ENERGY ISSUES AND CAREERS

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 2, 2013 – It’s a hot topic that raises serious questions about our future. And Carnegie Science Center hopes today’s teenagers will figure out the answers.

On Oct. 11, students from diverse high schools across the Pittsburgh region will attend the inaugural Student Energy Summit. Presented by the Science Center’s Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development, the summit aims to give tomorrow’s workforce a head start on finding solutions to today’s energy issues.

“It’s one of the defining issues of our time, and our students need to be prepared both as the future workforce and as informed citizens of the 21st century,” says Linda Ortenzo, the Science Center’s director of STEM programs.

Along with exploring the issues facing America’s power grid, students will attend workshops where they have a chance to be part of the solution in developing new ways to meet future energy needs. During the summit’s Career Café, students will sit down with energy industry professionals to learn which in-demand jobs might be right for them once they graduate.

Students from Canon McMillan, Carmichaels Area, McKeesport, North Allegheny, North Hills, Shaler Area, South Fayette and Woodland Hills high schools will attend the summit, which runs from 9 am- 3 pm.

The day’s schedule:
8:30 am: Schools arrive

9 - 9:30 am: Opening Assembly, featuring a special program laying out the key elements of the energy issue and an introduction to the six technology options the students will be exploring.

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9:30 – 10 am: Students are re-seated according to their assigned technologies, (wind, solar, hydropower, coal, natural gas, and nuclear power).

10 - 10:20 am: Dr. Jay Whitacre, associate professor of Engineering and Public Policy/Materials Science and Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and founder of Aquion Energy, will deliver a presentation on a technology he has developed for application in renewable energy.

10:25 – 10:45 am: Dr. Karl Johnson, professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, will discuss a technology he has helped develop to cut down on power plant emissions.

11 am – 1:45 pm Students will divide into two groups and switch between Career Café and an energy workshop. During Career Café, students will interact with local energy professionals as part of a speed networking activity. During the hands-on workshop, students will learn about their energy technology and look at its sustainability and environmental impact.

2 – 3 pm: The six groups of students will reconvene in the Bayer Science Stage, where they will deliver brief presentations on the energy technology they explored in their designated workshop. This information will allow students to assess how well their technology, and the five others, will meet the city’s electricity need while reducing harmful effects on the environment.

The Student Energy Summit has been made possible by the generous support of Robert M. Thompson, Jr. and Family and Chevron.

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. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities and special events.

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