Middle School Students Vie for National Recognition in Carnegie Science Center’s Future City Competition Regional Finals
Theme is Feeding Future Cities

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 15, 2015 -- Since September, middle school kids from more than 30 schools across the region have been designing cities of tomorrow as participants in the annual Future City® Competition. Now the moment of truth draws near as the regional finals are set to unfold on Saturday, Jan. 17, at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

Future City, a program of DiscoverE, is a national, project-based learning experience in which students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade imagine, design, and build cities of the future. For the region comprising western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, Carnegie Science Center manages the competition as a program of its Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development.

Competition Schedule
Preliminary judging, Special Awards judging 8 am–noon

**BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR PHOTOS, VIDEOS, INTERVIEWS**
Special awards presentation/ announcement of finalists 1 pm
Finals judging 2 pm
Final awards ceremony 4:30 pm

Each year, the competition asks the students to focus on a theme; this year, it was Feeding Future Cities. The students were challenged to explore today’s urban agriculture – from aeroponic systems for rooftop farms to recycled gray water to the sustainability-driven farm-to-table movement – and to develop a futuristic solution to growing crops within the confines of their city. Students had to consider light, climate, air quality, space, water, soil, and nutrients. Led by an educator and an engineer mentor, teams had to design their city using SimCity software; write a 1,000-word essay and a 500-word narrative about their city and how it meets the challenge of the theme; and build a model of their city with a budget of no more than $100 and using mostly recycled materials. On Saturday, each team will present its city to judges, engineers who are volunteering their time.
The winning team from the local competition will receive a trip to the Future City Competition National Finals in Washington, D.C., during Engineers Week, February 14-18, 2015. There, they will compete with the winners of 36 other regional competitions nationwide. A total of 40,000 participants from 1,350 schools are participating this year. The national grand prize is $7,500 for the team’s STEM program and a trip for the winning team members to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Participating schools:**

- Beaver Falls Middle School
- Bridge Street Middle School
- Canonsburg Middle School
- Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy
- Derry Area Middle School
- Environmental Charter School
- Fort Couch Middle School
- Frazier Middle School
- Kane Area Middle School
- Ligonier Valley Middle School
- Manchester Academic Charter School
- Marion Center Area School District
- Otto-Eldred School District
- Peters Township Middle School
- Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy
- Propel Charter Schools - Braddock Hills
- Propel Charter Schools – Homestead
- Propel Charter Schools - McKeesport
- Propel Charter Schools - Montour
- Propel Charter Schools - North Side
- Propel Charter Schools - Pitcairn
- St. Alexis School
- St. Bede School
- St. Bernadette School
We’re thrilled that so many students are participating in this competition and in exploring the excitement of engineering. This is why we at Carnegie Science Center are so excited about the Future City competition,” said Lisa Kosick, Regional Coordinator.

Local sponsors for the competition include Shell, The Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Health Department, American Society of Civil Engineers, AECOM, Bechtel, The Buhl Foundation Henry C. Frick Educational Fund, and Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc.

For more information on the Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org.

**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.

**About DiscoverE**
The mission of DiscoverE is to sustain and grow a dynamic engineering profession through outreach, education, celebration and volunteerism. DiscoverE supports a network of thousands of volunteers in its partner coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies. Together we meet a vital need: introducing students, parents, and educators to engineering, engaging them in hands-on engineering experiences and making science and math relevant. For more information, visit www.discovere.org.

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