



**CARNEGIE
SCIENCE
CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

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CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER HOSTS U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

BRIEFING FOCUSES ON IMPORTANT NEED FOR QUALITY STEM EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 18, 2015 — Carnegie Science Center hosted today a Congressional briefing, titled “Rethinking STEM Education: A Bold New Pathway For America’s Future.” Carnegie Science Center Co-Directors Ron Baillie and Ann Metzger spoke to a capacity crowd about bold new models for STEM Education in America.

Nearly 100 guests gathered in Washington D.C. for the Congressional briefing, which had bipartisan support from honorary co-hosts Congressman Keith Rothfus (R, PA-12) and Congressman Mike Doyle (D, PA-14). Reps. Rothfus and Doyle spoke at the event, discussing the value of STEM education.

Other speakers at the briefing addressed the dire STEM workforce gap from the perspective of corporations, educators, and the science center community.

Carnegie Science Center directors and partners discussed ways the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway is making a real difference in communities around the country. Carnegie Science Center’s Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development in Pittsburgh has become a national leader in STEM education.

“The Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway is an exciting and innovative initiative from Carnegie Science Center that has promise to transform STEM education across the nation,” Science Center Co-Director Ann Metzger said. “It’s a grassroots effort that will not necessarily require more funding or prescribed solutions. What it will require is looking at STEM education differently.”

“Carnegie Science Center is making a real impact in children’s lives and in helping to develop a twenty-first century workforce. They have been true entrepreneurs, in that they saw a gap and a need in our society and developed a dynamic solution to fulfill that need,” said Congressman Rothfus. “We brought this issue to Capitol Hill to share the successes of this program and discuss

ways we can engage students in math and science and inspire them to take on the many challenges that lie ahead.”

The Pathway now has 119 Pathway partners in seven states across the United States, including schools from Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Missouri. The Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway reaches more than 1.5 million students.

Pathway partners from the Kansas City STEM Alliance and from Pennsylvania’s Blackhawk School District discussed how the Pathway has benefitted their students.

“The Pathway provides a rubric that helps schools think about their own STEM offerings, evaluating: quality education, curriculum, instructional practices, assessment, family engagement, and real-world connections,” Science Center Co-Director Ron Baillie said. “This model is valuable to all schools, both well-resourced and under-resourced, as the nation faces a STEM workforce gap.”

“We’ve got to meet the challenge of ensuring that our nation’s children have the tools they need to succeed in tomorrow’s high-tech workforce,” Congressman Doyle said. “That’s what Carnegie Science Center and its partners have been working on, and I greatly appreciate their work on this important issue.”

Other speakers at the Congressional briefing were: Mary Murrin, Social Investment Manager of Chevron’s Appalachian/Michigan Business Unit; Dr. Melanie Kerber, Superintendent of the Blackhawk School District, Beaver County, PA; Martha McCabe, Manager of STEM Initiatives, Kansas City STEM Alliance, Kansas City, MO; Bud Rock, Executive Director, Association of Science-Technology Centers.



Left to right: Ann Metzger, Ron Baillie, Mary Murrin, Melanie Kerber, Martha McCabe, Bud Rock

Photo credit: Jerry Frishman

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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