SCIENCE CENTER STAFFER TO SPEAK TO CONGRESS ABOUT STEM
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING TO FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PITTSBURGH, June 7, 2016 — Carnegie Science Center’s Manager for Early Childhood STEM Initiatives Wendy Brenneman will speak at a Congressional Briefing on Friday, June 10 about the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) for young children. The briefing, organized by Congressman Mike Honda and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, will be held in the Congressional Auditorium, Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C., from 10 am – 11:30 am.

The briefing, titled “Education Through the Lens: Early Learning STEM” is the second in a three-part series led by Rep. Mike Honda, of California, and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, of Texas. It will focus on the broad commitments and cutting-edge efforts recently highlighted at the White House’s Early STEM Learning Symposium.

The briefing will be moderated by Dr. Russell Shilling, Executive Director of STEM for the U.S. Department of Education. Panelists will be:

- **Wendy Brenneman** — Manager of Early Childhood STEM Initiatives, Carnegie Science Center Pittsburgh;
- **Carrie Lynne Draper** — Founder & Executive Director, Readiness Learning Associates;
- **Rudo Kashiri** — Education Program Director, NASA Langley/Virginia Space Grant Consortium;
- **David Lowenstein** — Senior Director, Ready To Learn, PBS KIDS Digital.

*Media are invited to attend and should contact Carmen Russell, of Congressman Mike Honda’s office, for credentials: Carmen.Russell@mail.house.gov.*

Media are also invited to follow along on social media with the event hashtag: #STEMstartsearly.

**About Wendy Brenneman:**

Through Carnegie Science Center’s Science on the Road outreach program and the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development, Brenneman supports the science capacity of more than 150 Pre-K classrooms and educators in the Pittsburgh region and 1,200 in West Virginia, reaching more than 20,000 students and their families. As a museum educator for more than 10 years, she has developed more than 50 hours of informal science programming for a variety of audiences regionally and nationally, including STEM professional development for early educators.

Led by a lifelong interest in the learning that occurs in informal education settings, Brenneman seeks to
help early childhood educators and caregivers understand that not only is STEM appropriate for young students but that they are already engaged in STEM exploration every day.

She is a professional member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), and the NAEYC Early Childhood Science Interest Forum.

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
Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2015, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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