SCIENCE CENTER AWARDED NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANT FOR
CARNEGIE STEM EXCELLENCE PATHWAY
GRANT TOTALING $473,677 WILL SCALE PATHWAY ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 23, 2016 — Carnegie Science Center will form a consortium with four science centers across the country to establish the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway as a national model, thanks to a $473,677 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced today. The project will better equip schools to offer high-quality STEM programming. It will also establish science centers as effective STEM resources and strong community anchors that, in partnership with educational and allied organizations, will play an important role in enhancing economic vitality by helping citizens build essential 21st century learning skills.

Beginning in December with the support of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), Carnegie Science Center will form a consortium with:

- Arkansas Discovery Network (Little Rock, Ark.)
- Discovery Place (Charlotte, N.C.)
- Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (Texas)
- Saint Louis Science Center (Mo.)

Each consortium member will engage a diverse cohort of 10 school districts (called “Pathway Partners”) to participate during the 2017-2018 school year. Using the Pathway rubric, leadership teams from each Partner will evaluate its own educational offerings on the six-component STEM continuum. Up to three areas will be prioritized, and action plans will be formulated and implemented. Three daylong workshops held at each consortium members’ site will promote understanding of the Pathway tools, resources, and best practices and will foster district-to-district mentoring. Between workshops, a consortium member coach will guide the leadership teams, helping them tailor the Pathway to their particular organizational cultures and priorities.

Developed in Pittsburgh as a grassroots effort convened by Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway is an iterative process that empowers schools/districts to assess their STEM
programs, identify needed improvements, and create sustainable plans for addressing them, customized to their priorities and complying with Common Core and Next Generation Science standards. The Pathway is designed as a process of continuous improvement that provides guidance to diverse schools – both well-resourced and under-resourced – on how best to address the challenge of strengthening their STEM programming. Now in its second phase of regional implementation, the Pathway has a strong track record and is attracting interest from science centers and museums across the country striving to become catalysts for STEM educational improvements in their communities.

“The Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway provides a proven model for other science centers to adopt and implement in their local communities. With the support from IMLS, we can now develop a national network of Pathway Providers to exponentially increase the collective impact of our efforts to improve STEM education. It is our hope that this project will help our science center colleagues elevate their role with school partnerships that provided profound impact to students across the nation.”

Carnegie Science Center’s STEMisphere website will provide online access to the Pathway tools and a host of regional and national STEM resources. Leveraging lessons learned from the initial implementation of the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway, Carnegie Science Center staff will support consortium members by providing quarterly virtual meetings; a three-day summer training institute; two, two-day visits to consortium members’ sites; members’ retreats at ASTC annual conferences; informational webinars; printed and digital training materials; and technology and evaluation support. Pathway tools, extensive online resources, and a robust suite of training materials and professional development opportunities will be widely disseminated in partnership with ASTC and K-12 STEM channels, significantly extending the reach of the project.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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 120 years ago, 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. The museums reach more than 1.3 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.
About IMLS
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

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