CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD
Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development recognized for “Leading Edge Business Practice” by Association of Science-Technology Centers

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 22, 2012 – Carnegie Science Center is the 2012 recipient of the Leading Edge Award from the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), an international organization of more than 600 science centers and museums dedicated to encouraging public engagement with science among diverse audiences.

The award recognized the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development as the “Leading Edge Business Practice.” Henry Buhl, Jr., Co-Directors Ann Metzger and Ron Baillie accepted the award on behalf of the Science Center at the 2012 ASTC annual conference in Columbus last week.

The Roy L. Shafer Leading Edge Awards are presented annually to ASTC members and/or their employees in recognition of extraordinary accomplishments that not only enhance the performance of their own institutions, but also significantly advance the mission of science-technology centers and museums. This year’s honor is the second Leading Edge Award that Carnegie Science Center has won in the past four years; the Science Center’s BrainCake website for girls won the 2009 award as the “Leading Edge Visitor Experience.”

ASTC prepared the following statement:

The Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development at Carnegie Science Center is a “community connector,” bringing together a coalition of corporations, K-12 formal education, higher education, and foundations with the common goal to address challenges in STEM education and workforce development in the western Pennsylvania region. The Chevron STEM Center, launched in 2011… encompasses the Science Center’s existing informal science education programs for students and has embarked on new initiatives, including partnerships with area school districts to develop and strengthen STEM curriculum, a database of regional STEM programs, and a public awareness campaign aimed at parents.

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According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, eight of the 10 fastest-growing occupations nationally are related to science, math, or technology. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17 percent from 2008 to 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations.

“The economic demands of the 21st century challenge the American workforce to develop strong skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM),” Metzger said. “Our Chevron STEM Center has positioned us as a regional leader in STEM education, elevated our community profile, and raised significant funds to support our mission.”

“Much of the energy and excitement of our Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development comes from our highly engaged STEM Advisory Board, comprising leaders from the education, business, technology, and philanthropy sectors,” Baillie said. “It is a great honor to be recognized for our achievements by our international peers.”

ASTC will sponsor a day-long workshop on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Carnegie Science Center that is designed to help other Science Center directors to replicate the Chevron STEM Center—dubbed “the Carnegie model” by ASTC Chief Executive Officer Bud Rock.

About Carnegie Science Center
Carnegie Science Center brings the world of science alive for visitors of all ages. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center features hands-on exhibits, three live demonstration theaters, a four-story Omnimax theater, Highmark SportsWorks®, an interactive full-dome digital planetarium, a Cold War-era submarine moored on Pittsburgh’s Ohio River, the world’s largest and most comprehensive robotics exhibition, and a world-renowned model railroad display. Carnegie Science Center is located at One Allegheny Avenue on Pittsburgh’s North Shore next to Heinz Field. Visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org, or call 412.237.3400 for more information.

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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