



**CARNEGIE  
SCIENCE  
CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

**MEDIA ALERT** | For Immediate Release  
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**SCIENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES 10 CARNEGIE SCIENCE AWARD WINNERS**  
***AWARDEES LAUDED FOR REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY***

**PITTSBURGH, March 24, 2017** — Carnegie Science Center today announced 10 Carnegie Science Award winners in recognition of their regional achievements in science and technology. Awardees will be honored during a formal celebration at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland on Friday, May 12, 2017.

Awardees in education categories will be announced next week. Three student winners, who will be selected at the Science Center's 78th annual Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair, will be announced next month.

In the coming weeks, Carnegie Science Center will announce the 2017 Chairman's Award winner. The Chairman's Award is the highest honor conferred at the event and provides recognition for unparalleled impact in transforming the Pittsburgh region.

Carnegie Science Center established the Carnegie Science Awards program in 1997 to recognize and promote outstanding science and technology achievements in western Pennsylvania. Carnegie Science Awards have honored the accomplishments of more than 500 individuals and organizations that have improved lives through their commitment and contributions in science and technology. Eaton has supported Carnegie Science Awards for more than a decade as presenting sponsor. Chevron is the Awards' prime sponsor.

***Advanced Manufacturing & Materials Award***

**Paul Ohodnicki, PhD, and the Materials Science and Functional Materials Team  
National Energy Technology Laboratory**

The extreme environments of power generation systems and advanced manufacturing processes are too harsh for traditional sensors, limiting the ability to optimize efficiency and minimize environmental impacts. This team demonstrated a cutting-edge sensor technology capable of measuring temperature and gas composition inside solid oxide fuel cell systems, holding promise for commercialization and job growth.

***Corporate Innovation***

**Jessica Trybus**

### **Simcoach Games**

Founded by Jessica Trybus, Simcoach Games is pioneering the way job seekers interact with prospective jobs through games. Simcoach offers a simulation-based training operation, as well as a sophisticated problem-solving engine that exposes people to careers across multiple industries.

*Corporate Innovation honorable mention: Dick Zhang of Identified Technologies*

### ***Emerging Female Scientist***

**Kathryn Whitehead, PhD**

**Carnegie Mellon University**

Kathryn Whitehead, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, is revolutionizing the field of drug delivery. Dr. Whitehead's research focuses on the therapeutic potential of genetic medicines and nanoparticles in treating many types of cancer, hereditary disorders, and viral infections.

*Emerging Female Scientist honorable mention: Dr. Kara Anne Bernstein, of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

### ***Start-up Entrepreneur***

**Dick Zhang**

**Identified Technologies**

Dick Zhang channeled his engineering prowess into his Pittsburgh-based start-up "Identified Technologies," now the fastest-growing drone technology company on the East Coast. He and his team at Identified Technologies are revolutionizing industrial project tracking through their cutting-edge drone technology, which provides precise 3-D mapping of construction projects.

### ***Entrepreneur***

**Joe Ferrara**

**Wombat Security Technologies, Inc.**

Born from research at Carnegie Mellon University, Wombat Security Technologies provides information security awareness and training software to help organizations teach their employees secure behavior. Their cyber security education solution includes assessments, simulations, and training modules. Wombat's solutions reduce successful phishing attacks and malware infections by up to 90 percent.

### ***Environmental***

**Neil Donahue, PhD**

**Carnegie Mellon University**

Neil Donahue, a Chemistry professor at Carnegie Mellon University, is a leading expert in atmospheric chemistry. Dr. Donahue's research on organic compounds in the atmosphere has profound implications in addressing the problems of air pollution and global climate change. Dr. Donahue is working extensively to

improve air quality right here in Pittsburgh.

*Environmental honorable mention: Dr. Emily Elliot, of the University of Pittsburgh*

### ***Information Technology***

**Alex Jones, PhD**

**University of Pittsburgh**

An associate professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, Alex Jones is internationally known for his research in “green computing.” His research led to the creation of GreenChip, a tool that provides detailed estimates about manufacturing and operational-phase metrics, such as energy consumption and carbon emissions.

### ***Innovation in Energy***

**Kevin Chen, PhD**

**University of Pittsburgh**

Kevin Chen is driving innovation with his research on fiber optical sensing technology. The innovations and technologies developed by Dr. Chen’s team have critical applications to improve efficiency of energy production and safety of transportation infrastructures across all aspects of the energy industry.

*Innovation in Energy honorable mention: Ronald Gdovic, PhD, of WindStax Wind Power Systems*

### ***Life Sciences***

**John Kellum, MD**

**University of Pittsburgh**

A physician and a researcher, John Kellum is developing new procedures to treat acute kidney injury, which kills more than three million people annually. Dr. Kellum has led a world-wide effort to define acute kidney injury and establish diagnostics and therapeutics to improve health outcomes for this serious condition.

### ***Science Communicator***

**Beth Skwarecki**

***Lifehacker/Freelance***

Beth Skwarecki is a Pittsburgh-based writer who covers science and health topics for the blog, *Lifehacker*. She is the author of the book *Outbreak: 50 Tales of Epidemics That Terrorized the World*. Through her writing, Skwarecki helps people to understand how science affects our bodies and our world.

*Science Communicator honorable mention: Jess Bergson and Katie Grennan, of the Arts Management and Technology Lab*

For more information, visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org/Awards](http://CarnegieScienceCenter.org/Awards).

**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.

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