



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release
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AWARD-WINNING FUTURE CITY COMPETITION ANNOUNCES THEME FOR 2019–2020
REGIONAL COMPETITION AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER ASKS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
TO DESIGN A CLEAN DRINKING WATER SOLUTION



The team from Fort Couch Middle School in Upper St. Clair won first place in the Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition held at Carnegie Science Center on Jan. 19, 2019.

PITTSBURGH, September 5, 2019 — The 28th annual Future City Competition, an award-winning, international project-based learning experience that asks middle schoolers to design a city of the future, announces its 2019–2020 theme, ***Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow***. The Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at Carnegie Science Center. The regional winners then face off at the finals in Washington, DC, from February 15-19, 2020, during National Engineers Week.

During this coming school year, more than 40,000 middle schoolers from across the country and abroad will take part in the Future City Competition presented by DiscoverE. Following this year's theme, students will be asked to identify an urban water system threat and then imagine, research, design, and build a futuristic solution to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water.

Working as a team with an educator and STEM mentor, students present their vision of the future through a virtual city design (using SimCity™ software); a 1,500-word essay; a scale model of their city (built with recycled materials); and in a short presentation to a panel of STEM professionals. Keeping the engineering design process and project management front and center, students are asked to address an authentic, real-world question: *How can we make the world a better place?*

“Competitions like this allow students to take concepts they’re learning in the classroom and apply them to real-world situations,” says Liz Whitewolf, Director of Science and Education at Carnegie Science Center. “With Future City, they get to strengthen important STEM competencies like collaboration, innovation, and creativity while experiencing what it’s like to be problem-solving researchers, city planners, and engineers.”

According to current estimates, two billion people worldwide — 25% of the world’s population — currently don’t have access to clean water. By 2025, it is predicted that as many as four billion of the Earth’s citizens will be living in water-stressed areas. For civil engineers, urban planners, developers, and other professionals, maintaining a reliable water supply takes expertise, planning, and constant vigilance. A water-resilient city must be prepared to address a wide range of risks, including drought, flooding, population change, natural and manmade disasters, and economic recession.

The Future City Competition has been recognized with numerous prestigious national awards as a leading engineering education program. In 2017–18, Future City was honored by US2020 and co-founding sponsors, Chevron and Tata Consultancy Services, for its achievements and innovations in STEM education and its accessibility to underrepresented youth.

In 2016, the Future City Competition received the 2016 Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction, presented by Turner Construction Company and the National Building Museum. In 2015, Future City was named the grand prize winner in the UL (Underwriters Laboratories Inc.) Innovative Education Award program, receiving a \$100,000 award. The UL award highlights the essential, urgent, and significant value of E-STEM education.

The deadline to register for this year’s Future City Competition is October 31, 2019. Registration and more information is available at www.futurecity.org.

Major funding for Future City comes from the Bechtel Corporation, Bentley Systems, Inc, NCEES, Shell Oil Company, and DiscoverE. Additional program support provided by EA and UL.

About DiscoverE

DiscoverE is leading a growing volunteer movement that inspires and informs present and future generations to discover engineering. Our network of volunteers in the US and abroad is drawn from the DiscoverE coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies. Together we meet a vital need: introducing students, parents, and educators to engineering, engaging them in hands-on engineering experiences and making science and math relevant. For more information, visit www.discovere.org.

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.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

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 2018, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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