

MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release March 10, 2022 Contact: Megan McKenzie Mobile: 304.723.8660 McKenzieM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

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400+ STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN SCIENCE CENTER'S PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

STUDENTS TAKE ON CHALLENGE OF DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND COMMUNICATING AN ORIGINAL EXPERIMENT FOR CASH PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

PITTSBURGH, March 10, 2022 – Science fairs evoke memories of paper maché volcanoes and nitrogenfilled balloons, but you will not see much of that at the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) on Tues., March 22 and Wed., March 23, when more than 400 middle- and high-school students from 71 schools take over Carnegie Science Center to compete for scholarships and cash prizes as they present their science, math, and engineering research projects. Last year, Steven Liu, one of the winners, was recognized for his project titled, "Techno-Economic Assessment of a Cost and Quality-Based Algal Biodiesel Production Process."

Project categories include Behavioral and Consumer Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Math, Earth and Environment, Engineering and Robotics, Medicine/Health/Microbiology, and Physics and Astronomy. Many students chose to tackle important, relevant issues with their research, with projects that investigate COVID-19, the effects of remote learning, climate change, cancer research, and more.

"The Science Fair is a culmination of hundreds of hours of research, experimentation, and preparation of work put in by students over several months," said Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center. "We are honored to host the Science Fair on site for the first time at the Science Center, and to celebrate not only the innate creativity of our students, but also to recognize the hard work of the parents and teachers who have supported them."

Select Senior Division students (grades 9–12) will advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which will be held May 7–13, 2022. At ISEF, Senior Division PRSEF winners will join hundreds of winners from regional fairs in more than 80 other countries across the globe as they compete for nearly \$5 million in awards.

First, second, and third place category award winners in the Junior (grade 6) and Intermediate (grades 7–8) Divisions will advance to Broadcom MASTERS, a competition that consists of the top 10% of middle school projects entered in fairs around the United States.

PRSEF participants can also compete for a variety of sponsor awards and scholarship awards from 10 regional colleges and universities. In addition, three students will be selected for recognition at the 2022 Carnegie Science Awards, the Science Center's annual awards program recognizing outstanding STEM innovators.

The Science Center will be closed to the public during PRSEF. The winners will be announced during a virtual Awards Ceremony on Fri., March 25.

PRSEF has been a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940. It is the third oldest science fair in the United States under the affiliation of Society for Science & the Public, which runs the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the Broadcom MASTERS middle school competition.

For more information, go to PittsburghScienceFair.org.

***MEDIA PHOTO AND VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: WHEN: Tues., March 22 and Wed., March 23 from 10 am-2 pm

WHERE: Carnegie Science Center, One Allegheny Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Please contact Megan McKenzie at 304.723.8660 or <u>McKenzieM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org</u> if interested in attending.

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 <u>info@carnegiesciencecenter.org</u>. 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 <u>accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org</u>.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, <u>Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh</u> is a family of four dynamic, distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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