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Contact: Megan McKenzie
Mobile: 304.723.8660
McKenzieM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

Contact: Connie George
412.638.7029
GeorgeC@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

**SCIENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2022 CARNEGIE SCIENCE
AWARD WINNERS**

AWARDEES TO CELEBRATE AT OCT. 13 GEEK OUT GALA

[Click here](#) to download award winners' bios and headshots.

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 4, 2022 – For more than 25 years, scientists, technologists, educators, business leaders, and innovators who make a difference in Pittsburgh (and beyond) converge at the annual Carnegie Science Awards. Today, the Science Center announced this year's impressive class of Carnegie Science Award recipients, who will be celebrated at the inaugural [Geek Out Gala](#) on **Thurs., Oct. 13, 2022**.

Carnegie Science Award winners are chosen by a committee of peers – both past awardees and industry leaders – who selected the most deserving scientists, educators, business leaders, and innovators whose contributions have led initiatives that have provided significant economic or societal benefits to western Pennsylvania.

“The Carnegie Science Awards celebrate and highlight the accomplishments of the creative and forward-thinking minds in Pittsburgh’s science, technology, and education communities and provides opportunities for them to share their stories,” said Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center. “They are making incredible contributions to their respective fields, and we are honored to recognize these outstanding changemakers at our Geek Out Gala event.”

As the Science Center’s signature celebration of innovation and annual fundraiser, the Oct. 13 evening event offers an exciting networking opportunity complete with explosive science demonstrations, savory food and cocktails, and a short awards presentation that will share the inspiring stories behind the awardees’ accomplishments. The evening raises funds to support the Science Center’s mission in advancing inclusive and accessible STEM education to all students.

The awards program will honor awardees in eight categories, including Most Inspiring Educator, Champion for STEM Equity and Inclusion, Champion for Sustainability, and Corporate Leadership. In addition, three student winners will be recognized for the research projects they presented during the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair held in March 2022.

Among this year's honorees is the recipient of the Chairman's Award, which is presented to an individual or an organization that has made outstanding contributions in science, either through exemplary work in one field or through transcendent leadership, commitment, or achievement. The Chairman's Award is only presented in years where there is an exceptional recipient who is deemed worthy of the distinction.

John Thornton, CEO of Astrobotic Technology, Inc. is the winner of the 2022 Chairman's Award. John co-founded Astrobotic in 2007. With more than 15 years' experience at Astrobotic, John's focus is to make space accessible to the world. Under John's tenure as CEO, Astrobotic has become the world-leading lunar logistics company delivering cargo to the Moon for companies, governments, universities, non-profits, and individuals. The company has since grown to 180 employees and has secured more than \$400M in NASA contracts to deliver NASA instruments to the lunar surface – including NASA's water-hunting rover, VIPER. Additionally, the company has expanded its lunar rovers and cutting-edge space robotics offerings with more than 50 prior and ongoing NASA and commercial technology contracts. John founded and is the Chairman of the Board for the Moonshot Museum, a Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to career development and access to the burgeoning space industry.

The 2022 Carnegie Science Award honorees are:

- Chairman's Award – **John Thornton, Astrobotic Technology, Inc.**
- Best Interdisciplinary Approach to STEM Education – **Pittsburgh DataWorks**
- Champion for STEM Equity and Inclusion – **Arvind Seshan, Droid Robotics**
- Champion for Sustainability – **Mary Ellen Ramage, Borough of Etna**
- Corporate Leadership – **PITT OHIO**
- Entrepreneur – **Dr. Susan Catalano, PhD, CODA Biotherapeutics**
- Exemplary Educational/Corporate Collaboration – **MECCO & Robert Morris University**
- Innovation – **Dr. Eric Lagesse, PharmD, PhD, Pittsburgh Liver Research Center**

- Most Inspiring Educator – **Denny Quinn, Chartiers Valley School District**
- Junior Division Student – **Tai Luangkesorn, Marshall Middle School**
- Intermediate Division Student – **Vanessa Ibrahim, Mary Queen of Apostles School**
- Senior Division Student – **Adhitya Thirumala, Fox Chapel Area High School**

Through the support of committed sponsors, the Carnegie Science Awards program has honored the accomplishments of more than 600 individuals and organizations.

For more information about the Geek Out Gala and to purchase tickets for the event, visit:

<https://carnegiesciencecenter.org/carnegie-science-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.

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

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#) 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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