



**CARNEGIE
SCIENCE
CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

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Contact: Connie George

Mobile: 412.638.7029

GeorgeC@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

Contact: Rossilynne Culgan

Office: 412.237.1537

CulganR@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

**2017 CARNEGIE SCIENCE AWARDS RECOGNIZE LEADERS IN SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION**

LOCAL LEADERS TO BE LAUDED FOR MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS

PITTSBURGH, May 5, 2017 — Tickets are now available for Carnegie Science Center's 21st annual Carnegie Science Awards, presented by Eaton. The celebration, which will take place at Carnegie Music Hall on Friday, May 12, features an awards ceremony recognizing the work of Pittsburgh's leaders in science, technology, and education. The evening includes a strolling dinner, cocktail service, live music, a silent auction, and a raffle. All proceeds from the Carnegie Science Awards event benefit science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs at Carnegie Science Center. More details and tickets are available at www.CarnegieScienceCenter.org/Awards.

The program honors awardees from 20 categories, including Corporate Innovation, Emerging Female Scientist, Entrepreneur, and Leadership in STEM Education. These individuals and companies have distinguished themselves by making unparalleled contributions to science and technology in various disciplines. Three students who were chosen at the Science Center's Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair also will be honored.

"There's a common thread among our award winners this year: They're all problem-solvers who are dreaming big dreams," said Ann Metzger, Henry Buhl, Jr., Co-Director of Carnegie Science Center. "They're using critical thinking skills to solve real-world problems and to make a difference. Those are crucial skills for all 21st-century learners, and that's why problem-solving skills are a hallmark of all our Science Center programming."

Carnegie Science Center established the Carnegie Science Awards program in 1997 to recognize and promote outstanding science and technology achievements in western Pennsylvania. Celebrating more than two decades, the 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.

“The Carnegie Science Awards spotlight some of the most innovative minds today,” said Ron Baillie, Henry Buhl, Jr., Co-Director of Carnegie Science Center. “These individuals are making a global impact starting with our own region. We know they are already inspiring a new generation of leaders. One of our central missions is to promote education in science, technology, engineering, and math – or STEM. The Carnegie Science Awards winners exemplify the highest levels of success in STEM fields and in STEM education. We are proud to recognize these outstanding awardees and look forward to their continued contributions.”

Eaton is the presenting sponsor for the event.

“In the 14 years that Eaton has supported the Carnegie Science Awards, we have seen remarkable leaders and organizations recognized for their contributions to science, technology, engineering, and math,” said Ruppert Russoniello, president, Controls and Protection Division, Eaton, and Carnegie Science Awards Event Chair. “These awardees are helping us build a future that promises to be healthier, smarter, and more prosperous for us all. We offer our congratulations and our thanks.”

WINNERS:

Advanced Manufacturing and Materials - Paul Ohodnicki, PhD, and the Materials Science and Functional Materials Team, National Energy Technology Laboratory

Corporate Innovation - Jessica Trybus, Simcoach Games

Elementary Educator - Alison Francis, Fox Chapel Area School District

Middle Level Educator - Brett Slezak, Allegheny Valley School District

High School Educator - Julia Metz, Hopewell High School

Leadership in STEM Education - Leonard Kisslinger, PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

Leadership in Career and Technical Education Award - Christine Nguyen, Sarah Heinz House

University / Post-Secondary Educator - Chandralekha Singh, University of Pittsburgh

University / Post-Secondary Student - Genoa Warner, Carnegie Mellon University

Emerging Female Scientist - Kathryn Whitehead, PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

Start-Up Entrepreneur - Dick Zhang, Identified Technologies

Entrepreneur - Joe Ferrara, Wombat Security Technologies, Inc.

Environmental - Neil Donahue, PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

Information Technology - Alex Jones, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Innovation in Energy - Kevin Chen, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Life Sciences - John Kellum, MD, University of Pittsburgh

Science Communicator - Beth Skwarecki, *Lifehacker*/Freelance

Junior Division Student Award - Jesse Hilko, Freeport Area Middle School

Intermediate Division Student Award - Amulya Garimella, Dorseyville Middle School

Senior Division Student Award - Joseph Flot, Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Corporate Innovation - Dick Zhang, Identified Technologies

Elementary Educator - Dave Tomko, Sharon City School District

Middle Level Educator - Brian Grindle, Yough Intermediate Middle School

High School Educator - Fred Peskorski, Upper St. Clair School District

Leadership in Career and Technical Education - Daniel Wagner, Greene County Career and Technology Center

University/Post-Secondary Educator - Dr. Peyman Givi, the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Conrad Zapanta, Carnegie Mellon University

University/Post-Secondary Student - Alexandra To and Neil Carlton, Carnegie Mellon University

Entrepreneur - Jessica Trybus, Simcoach Games

Emerging Female Scientist - Dr. Kara Anne Bernstein, the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Environmental - Dr. Emily Elliot, the University of Pittsburgh

Innovation in Energy - Ronald Gdovic, PhD, WindStax Wind Power Systems

Science Communicator - Jess Bergson and Katie Grennan, Arts Management and Technology Lab

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

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 2016, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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