



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release

March 13, 2018

Contact: Connie George

412.638.7029

GeorgeC@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

Contact: Madelyn Dinnerstein

Office: 412.237.3427 / Mobile: 412.334.4017

DinnersteinM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

SCIENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES CARNEGIE SCIENCE AWARDS WINNERS ***AWARDEES LAUDED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY***

PITTSBURGH, March 13, 2018 – Carnegie Science Center is celebrating the achievements of local leaders in science innovation, research, and education with the 2018 Carnegie Science Awards. Today, the Science Center announced the honorees in 17 categories and the program's highest honor, the Chairman's Award.

The Carnegie Science Awards champion efforts to strengthen science and technology in our region. This year's winners range from a culinary arts teacher whose coursework extends beyond the conventional kitchen into food-science research and career exploration, to a tech start-up that secured \$1 billion from Ford Motor Company. These winners were selected by a committee of peers—past awardees and industry leaders—who rigorously reviewed nominations and selected the most deserving winners.

The Chairman's Award is conferred only in years when the judges determine someone has made an extraordinary impact on science and technology in our region. This year, Carnegie Science Center is honoring County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. Under Fitzgerald's leadership, Allegheny County consistently is recognized for innovations in STEM fields such as technology, health care, and energy. Fitzgerald works hard to create a business environment that attracts and supports the growth and development of technology companies in our region.

His efforts have helped create the Pitt Innovation District; launch TechHire Pittsburgh, a successful collaboration between Partner4Work, the City of Pittsburgh, and Allegheny County; and foster the development of CoLab18, which will focus on community collaboration, education, digital engagement, and workforce development.

Winners and honorable mentions announced today (see below), along with three student winners who will be selected later this month at the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair, will be honored May 4 during the Carnegie Science Awards Celebration at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

Here are this year's awardees:

- Chairman's Award – **Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald**.
- Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Award – **Albert To, Ph.D.**, University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering.
- Corporate Innovation Award – **Covestro, LLC**.
- Emerging Female Scientist Award – **Kara Bernstein, Ph.D.**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
- Start-Up Entrepreneur Award – **Bryan Salesky**, Argo AI.
- Entrepreneur Award – **Robb Myer, Luke Panza, Richard Colvin, and James Belt**, NoWait.
- Environmental Award – **Terry Collins, Ph.D.**, Carnegie Mellon University Department of Chemistry.
- Information Technology Award – **Tom Galluzzo, Ph.D.**, IAM Robotics.
- Innovation in Energy Award – **Caine Finnerty, Ph.D.**, WATT Fuel Cell Corp.
- Life Sciences Award – **Peter L. Strick, Ph.D.**, University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute.
- Science Communicator Award, **Gina Catanzarite**, Arania Productions.
- Elementary Educator Award – **Rebecca Colangelo**, South Fayette Township School District.
- Middle Level Educator Award – **Mary Collins**, Peters Township Middle School.
- High School Educator Award – **Daniel Wagner**, Greene County Career & Technology Center.
- University/Postsecondary Educator Award – **James McGee, M.D.**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
- Leadership in STEM Education Award – **Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences (PGSS) Campaign**.
- Leadership in Career and Technical Education Award – **Rob Barclay, Shawn Golden, and Bob Mitchell**, Greene County Career & Technology Center.
- University/Postsecondary Student Award – **Shinjini Kundu, M.D., Ph.D.**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In addition, Honorable Mentions were awarded in 11 categories. They are:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Materials – **Antonio D'Amore, Ph.D.**, McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, University of Pittsburgh.
- Start-Up Entrepreneur – **Hahna Alexander**, SolePower.
- Entrepreneur – **Jason Wolfe**, Giftcards.com and GiftCardGranny LLC.
- Environmental – **Paul Scerri, Ph.D.**, Platypus.
- Innovation in Energy – **Gregory Reed, Ph.D.**, University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering; **Hahna Alexander**, SolePower.

- Science Communicator – **Jason Bittel**, freelance writer.
- Elementary Educator – **Jeffrey Patrick, M.Ed.**, Propel Schools Homestead.
- Middle Level Educator – **Debbie Reynolds**, Baldwin-Whitehall School District.
- High School Educator – **James Hausman**, South Fayette School District.
- University/Postsecondary Educator – **Jonathan Lewis, Ph.D.**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Department of Geoscience.
- Leadership in STEM Education – **Investing Now**, a program of the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering.

The Awards Celebration in May features a strolling dinner; silent auction; and awards presentation full of amazing stories about the region’s top minds in science, technology, research, and education. It provides a rich networking platform while raising funds to support the Science Center’s education programs that identify, nurture, and inspire the next generation of leaders in science and technology. For more information about the awards celebration, go to www.CarnegieScienceCenter.org/Awards.

“The Carnegie Science Awards applaud some of the most exciting leaders and innovators in our region’s science community,” said Ron Baillie, Henry Buhl, Jr., Co-Director of Carnegie Science Center. “They helped make Pittsburgh the technology hub it has become and inspire the young people who will become the next generation of professionals in the STEM fields of science, engineering, technology, and math.”

Ann Metzger, Henry Buhl, Jr., Co-Director of Carnegie Science Center, said the awards are an integral part of the mission of promoting STEM education, which will be energized later this year when the Science Center’s PPG Science Pavilion opens in June and provides additional state-of-the-art classroom space.

“Winners of the Carnegie Science Awards represent the pinnacle of excellence in STEM fields and STEM education,” Metzger said. “We are thrilled to recognize our amazing awardees and expect them to continue to do us proud with their accomplishments in the future.”

Through the support of committed sponsors, the Carnegie Science Awards program has honored the accomplishments of more than 550 individuals and organizations. Eaton is the presenting sponsor for the Carnegie Science Awards. Chevron is the prime sponsor.

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 2017, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

###