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## **CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER AND PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNER FOR**

### **EARLY LEARNING**

#### ***PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER***

**PITTSBURGH, August 24, 2018** — Carnegie Science Center and Pittsburgh Public Schools are happy to announce the opening of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Classroom – the second Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Classroom ever to be housed outside of a school building and the first public school early childhood classroom located in a science center.

On Friday, staff, donors, parents, and media enjoyed a preview of the space, which invited new learners to the classroom as they gear up for their official first day on Monday, August 27. At Friday's celebration, the inaugural class stamped their mark to the start of the new school year with an ink handprint activity. The artwork from the activity was framed and hung in the foyer outside of the classroom to commemorate this special milestone.

"The opportunities for learning are endless when a science center is actually the students' classroom, where they have access to the Center's educators, scientists, exhibits, and programs on an everyday basis," said Science Center Co-Director Ann Metzger. "Every accomplished scientist was once just a curious little kid."

"The opening of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Classroom is a partnership, built on our nine-year relationship with the Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Education Program," adds Science Center Co-Director Ron Baillie. "During that time, we've delivered classroom programs and family nights, co-created curriculum supplements, developed science residencies for classrooms, and established a STEM library." The Heinz Endowments provided support to transform existing space in the Highmark SportsWorks® building to meet Head Start regulations and teachers' needs, as well as educator training and curriculum development. In

addition, The Heinz Endowments funded the Welcome to Pre-K Day, a day where Pittsburgh Public Schools Pre-K students enjoyed free admission to the Science Center with their families on Wednesday, August 15.

“We are excited for this first of its kind opportunity to expand our Early Childhood offerings to the Carnegie Science Center,” says Dr. Anthony Hamlet, Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools. “There’s already an invested learning environment around STEAM education at the Carnegie Science Center, and we are grateful that our youngest learners can take advantage of this space.”

In addition to being at the Science Center, all on-site classroom students will receive premium Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh memberships, giving them access and exploration to Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, The Andy Warhol Museum, and Carnegie Science Center respectively.

For more information, visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org](http://CarnegieScienceCenter.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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### **About Pittsburgh Public Schools**

The Pittsburgh Public School District is the largest of 43 school districts in Allegheny County and second largest in Pennsylvania. The District serves approximately 25,000 students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. In April 2017, PPS Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, unveiled *2017-2022 Strategic Plan: Expect Great Things*, aimed at transforming PPS into a student-centered culture built on continuous improvement. The Pittsburgh Public Schools offers students a variety of options and opportunities that will help them succeed in school and prepare them for whatever comes next in college, career and life. Pittsburgh Public Schools has a long-standing history of implementing successful and effective early childhood programs in the City of Pittsburgh that fosters the educational, nutritional, social-emotional, health/mental health, and physical development and well-being of all children, including those with special needs.

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