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**BRINGING THE SCIENCE FAIR HOME: SCIENCE CENTER WILL HOST COVESTRO  
PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR ON MARCH 25**



**PITTSBURGH, March 18, 2020** — For the first time in its 81-year history, Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) will be held at Carnegie Science Center on Wed., March 25, 2020. That day, more than 800 middle and high school students from across the region will compete for scholarships and cash prizes as they present their science, math, and engineering research projects.

“The Science Center is excited to host PRSEF in our building, a space that has delighted, educated, and inspired countless budding scientists and engineers throughout the years,” Science Fair Director Nicki Wood said. “We see this as bringing PRSEF home. It’s a true representation of our mission to inspire more young people to pursue STEM careers and cultivate a STEM-literate community.”

Carnegie Science Center will be closed to the public on Wed., March 25, 2020 in order to dedicate the time, space, and resources necessary to host this major competition. The awards ceremony will take place the next evening on Thurs., March 26, 2020 at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

Covestro 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.

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Each fall, teachers in 21 counties in western Pennsylvania and Garrett County, Maryland, introduce PRSEF as an extracurricular activity or as part of their academic program. Students in grades 6–12 select a scientific or engineering project from one of 21 categories, and their research plans are reviewed by the Covestro PRSEF Scientific Review Committee to guarantee that proper scientific procedures will be followed. During the competition, judges interview students using the Socratic method to ensure they have a deep understanding of their project and a creative approach to their research design.

“We continue to be inspired by the high caliber of talent, creativity, and innovation represented in this competition,” Covestro Chairman and President Haakan Jonsson said. “What inspires us most is the underlying passion for science and technology — a passion we share at Covestro, where our own problem solvers are pushing boundaries every day to develop science-based solutions for a more sustainable future.”

Select Senior Division students (grades 9–12) will advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which will be held May 10–15, 2020 in Anaheim, California. 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.

Additionally, select 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.

Because of recent public health concerns, Carnegie Science Center is taking special precautions to mitigate the risk of contamination from *Coronavirus* (COVID-19) in the museum. “Safety is always our top priority at Carnegie Science Center,” says Director Jason Brown. “We are keeping a watchful eye on the ever-changing nature of this concern, and we are taking the appropriate steps to ensure the well-being of our visitors, our staff, and our volunteers, in accordance with recommendations from public health agencies.”

Our team is following guidelines on preventative measures from the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Allegheny County Health Department](#). The Science Center recently adopted enhanced cleaning protocols in the museum’s public spaces and places where people congregate. This includes cleaning common touch-points such as exhibits, handrails, tables, and elevator buttons with increased frequency. We are reinforcing cleaning protocols and priority areas with our team on a regular basis. In addition, more hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the building for public use.

We are posting educational signage throughout the building to reinforce what teachers and parents are already doing – educating students on the importance of proper handwashing and hygiene. Staff and volunteers will also be present on each floor to direct visitors to hand sanitizing stations.

**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 2018, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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