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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jared Cohen, Google Executive and Best-Selling Author & Travelers
to Receive Education Leadership Awards
*Connecticut Science Center to Bestow Honors at Sept. 28 Green Gala***

Hartford, CT- September 16, 2013 – The Connecticut Science Center, New England’s premier informal-science-learning institution, is pleased to announced that Jared Cohen, Director of Google Ideas and co-author of *The New Digital Age*, and The Travelers Companies, Inc. will be honored for leadership in science, technology and education at the 2013 Green Gala on September 28.

Each year the Science Center acknowledges leadership in addressing the American achievement gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education relative to competing economies. Studies continue to show that American students, particularly in their teens, are behind their international peers in STEM, even as workforce demands and career opportunities increasingly shift towards STEM proficiencies.

“We need private-sector leadership, as well as inspired public policy, to ensure that our next generation of workers will have the skills to maintain our global position intellectually, creatively and economically, said Matt Fleury, President & CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. “Jared Cohen and The Travelers Companies exhibit the kind of forward-thinking action that will help our children succeed.”

Jared Cohen is the director of Google Ideas, which focuses on how technology can help make the world better. He is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and the co-author, along with Google executive chairman and former CEO Eric Schmidt, of the *New York Times* best-selling *The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business*. *The New Digital Age* offers a vision of our increasingly interconnected future, answering the question of how everything in the physical world will change over the next decade as five billion new users enter the digital world. Previously, Cohen served as a member of the U.S. Secretary of State’s Policy Planning Staff and as a close advisor to both Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Rodham Clinton. He was named one of *Time’s* 100 Most Influential People in the world in 2013.

“The Internet is among the few things humans have built that they don’t truly understand. It is at once intangible and in a constant state of mutation, growing larger and more complex with each passing second. It is a source for tremendous good and potentially dreadful evil, and we’re only just beginning to witness its impact on the world stage,” said Jared Cohen. “The Connecticut Science Center is a vital and forward-looking organization whose work is critical in fostering the next generation of creative thinkers and problem solvers that will begin to address these types of issues head-on.”

The Travelers Companies, Inc. is one of America's oldest and most respected leaders in the insurance industry. Travelers also has an extraordinary commitment to strengthening education. Through its Travelers EDGE® (Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment) initiative, Travelers aims to increase the number of underrepresented individuals who complete their bachelor's degrees and are prepared for careers in the insurance and financial services industry. Travelers, which contributed 43 percent of its annual giving to education last year, has been a staunch supporter of the Connecticut Science Center, contributing to its building campaign and helping to present important traveling exhibits as *Dinosaurs Unearthed* and *Identity: An Exhibition of You*.

"Travelers is honored to receive the Science Center's award for our continued focus on helping students excel in college and their careers," said Bill Malugen, President of National Accounts for Travelers and a Science Center board member. "The Science Center has been an outstanding partner in our community and is to be commended for its focus on access to science education for all students in Connecticut."

The Connecticut Science Center is dedicated to lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science. The Green Gala is the Connecticut Science Center's signature annual event for science learning. Drawing more than 50 sponsors and 700 guests, event proceeds fund the Science Center's work to bring scientific concepts alive for children and adults. Since opening in 2009, more than 1.3 million people have been served by the organization's exciting and educational programming.

The Green Gala features delicious tapas dining on every floor, full bars and dancing. Tickets are \$175 each and available on the Science Center's website at www.CTScienceCenter.org/gala. Benefactor ticketholders (\$250 each) are invited to a pre-event President's Champagne Reception from 6 PM to 7 PM, prior to the event. President's Reception attendees will be joined by honored guest Jared Cohen and receive a signed copy of his best-seller, *The New Digital Age*. The Leadership Awards for Science Education will be presented at 9:45 PM.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 1,300,000 people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features 165 hands-on exhibits in 10 galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, providing powerful professional development for educators. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.