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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Connecticut Science Center Advances Engineering Education through  
Nationally Recognized Program**  
*Science Center's Mandell Academy for Teachers is Official Provider of Engineering is Elementary®  
Program in Connecticut*

**Hartford, CT**, January 22, 2014 – The Connecticut Science Center is taking a giant step forward in encouraging young students to envision themselves as the next generation of engineers. As part of a new, nationwide partnership called **Engineering is Elementary® (EiE®)**, the Science Center will be training Connecticut's elementary school teachers to teach basic engineering curricula to their young students.

The Connecticut Science Center has been named by the Museum of Science, Boston as the state's official professional development (PD) provider for EiE, a nationally renowned education project developed by the National Center for Technological Literacy® (NCTL®) at the Museum of Science, Boston. The Science Center will join the Extended Network of EiE PD Providers--a national community of collaborators who facilitate EiE PD workshops in locations around the country.

*"We are very pleased to partner with the Museum of Science, Boston to offer the EiE program as part of our Mandell Academy for Teachers,"* said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. *"The national scope of EiE's classroom-tested curriculum keeps EiE program participants competitive with their peers. The Science Center's Mandell Academy will play a major role in meeting the growing demand for these programs."*

Fleury explained that children often don't even learn what engineering is until they reach high school, when many have already formed ideas about their future careers. "Kids dream about being doctors or teachers or firefighters because they know what those are," he said. "How many 8-year-olds do you hear say, 'I want to be an engineer'? We need to introduce children to engineering when they're very young so they can get excited about it."

Fleury also noted that the new Next Generation Science Standards call for engineering concepts to be included in science and technology lessons.

**Engineering is Elementary® (EiE®)** is an award-winning, classroom-tested curriculum that integrates engineering and technology with science, language arts, social studies, and math via storybooks and hands-on design activities for 1st – 5th graders. The curriculum offers teachers a choice of 20 units with engaging engineering challenges that allow students to apply their earth science, physical science, and life science knowledge.

The nation's largest elementary engineering curriculum, EiE has reached more than 61,800 teachers and 4.5 million students and is used in all 50 states. EiE is backed by research that shows enhanced student interest and achievement in science and engineering; studies reveal positive outcomes for all student demographics. The curriculum also integrates with literacy and social studies instruction.

*"We identified that there was a strong need for engineering-focused training for educators in Connecticut,"* said Hank Gruner, Connecticut Science Center's Vice President Programs & Exhibits. *"The proven results of the EiE program will empower educators to engage students at an early age in the engineering design process, which is an important step for incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education within the curriculum."*

The Mandell Academy's Science Education team underwent comprehensive training at the Museum of Science, Boston to become certified to become EIE PD Facilitators. In the classroom, students who are learning with EIE interact with and manipulate materials to answer questions and solve engineering design challenges. EIE aims to replicate that style of learning in PD workshops, minimizing lecture-style teaching and instead focusing on learner-driven activities. The Academy team had a chance to try EIE's hands-on engineering design challenges, which are based-on real-world problems.

*Partnering with the Connecticut Science Center helps us further our mission to foster engineering and technological literacy among all elementary-aged children," said Ioannis (Yannis) N. Miaoulis, Museum of Science president and director. "The key to educating students to thrive in today's competitive global economy is introducing them to the engineering design skills and concepts that engage them in applying their math and science knowledge to solve real problems, often fueling innovation of new technologies."*

*"We're pleased to welcome the Science Center to our national network of professional development providers," says Dr. Christine Cunningham, Director of EIE and Vice President at the Museum of Science, Boston. The Science Center's reputation as a premier provider of STEM education training makes them the ideal partner to deliver the Engineering in Elementary curriculum to educators in Connecticut."*

The Connecticut Science Center will offer its first Engineering is Elementary programs in February and April. The new EIE workshops add to the already robust offering of Professional Development programs at the Science Center's **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**. The Mandell Academy offers Professional Development programs and workshops on subjects such as Student Engagement Strategies, Science Content, Engineering, Inquiry Teaching and Learning, and Science Coaching. Approximately 550 educators across the state participated in Mandell Academy programs in 2013.

For more information about the Connecticut Science Center and the Mandell Academy for Teachers, please visit [www.CTScienceCenter.org](http://www.CTScienceCenter.org). For more information about Engineering is Elementary visit [www.eie.org](http://www.eie.org).

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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. Inspiring 1.5 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten 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 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 the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: [www.CTScienceCenter.org](http://www.CTScienceCenter.org) or 860.SCIENCE.

**About the Museum of Science, Boston** One of the world's largest science centers and Boston's most attended cultural institution, the Museum of Science, Boston introduces about 1.5 million visitors a year to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) via dynamic programs and hundreds of interactive exhibits. Founded in 1830, the Museum was first to embrace all the sciences under one roof. Highlights include the [Hall of Human Life](#), Thomson Theater of Electricity, [Charles Hayden Planetarium](#), [Mugar Omni Theater](#), Gordon Current Science & Technology Center, 3-D Digital Cinema and [Butterfly Garden](#). The Museum also leads a 10-year, \$41 million National Science

Foundation-funded Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network of science museums. The nation's only science museum with a comprehensive strategy and infrastructure to foster technological literacy in science museums and schools across the United States, the Museum, led by president and director Ioannis Miaoulis, launched the [National Center for Technological Literacy® \(NCTL®\)](#) to enhance knowledge of engineering and technology for people of all ages and inspire future scientists and engineers. NCTL curricula have reached an estimated 4.8 million students and 67,726 teachers. Visit: <http://www.mos.org>.