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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SCIENCE INSPIRATION AND EDUCATION FOR STAMFORD'S CLOONAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

### ***Fairfield County Community Foundation Sponsors Connecticut Science Center's Hands-on Student and Family Learning Activities***

**Hartford, CT, March 25, 2014** – Students at Cloonan Middle School in Stamford and their families will experience inspiring and educational science learning programs and activities provided by the Connecticut Science Center with support from the Fairfield County Community Foundation. Connecticut Science Center Staff Scientists will partner with classroom teachers to provide exciting outreach programs for students in their classrooms, and Science Center-supported Cloonan Middle School Family STEM Nights will raise student interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through engaging, hands-on science activities appropriate for all ages.

Through the Stamford Public School District's participation in the Science Center Professional Development programs previously, Cloonan Middle School STEM teachers are already applying best practices in their science classes. Thanks to the Fairfield County Community Foundation, the Science Center's team of science educators will add their exciting brand of science learning to the unique experience of studying Science at Cloonan Middle School. "Like many of Connecticut's urban school districts, Stamford Public Schools are working to close the achievement gap and prepare all of their students for a job market that is more and more focused on skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "With the support of the Fairfield County Community Foundation, we are truly excited about enhancing our contributions to the Stamford schools by bringing fun, dynamic science programs to the great team of educators and students and families at Cloonan Middle."

Connecticut Science Center outreach programs, known as *Science in Motion*, are classroom-ready programs that combine demonstrations with hands-on activities designed to spark students' scientific curiosity. Each program aligns directly to the Connecticut Science Frameworks, complementing and reinforcing the lessons presented by teachers. Family STEM Nights at Cloonan Middle School, which include activities provided by the Science Center, allow students and their families to explore science together.

For more information about the Connecticut Science Center and *Science in Motion* Outreach programs, please visit [www.CTScienceCenter.org](http://www.CTScienceCenter.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. Serving 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 Fairfield County Community Foundation** The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish their own charitable funds or contribute to existing funds focused on specific areas of need or communities in Fairfield County. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$168 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).