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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Dinosaurs Unearthed* Exhibit Roars into the Connecticut Science Center**
East Coast Debut of Blockbuster Exhibit features 14 Life-Size Animatronic Dinosaurs
April 6 – September 2, 2012

Hartford, CT- March 30, 2012- The Connecticut Science Center is undergoing a prehistoric transformation in preparation for the April 6 opening of its newest and most anticipated traveling exhibit to date, *Dinosaurs Unearthed*. The exhibition is made possible by the generosity of presenting sponsor The Travelers Companies, Inc. and is the largest of its kind to ever visit Connecticut, making its East Coast debut.

"Travelers is committed to serving the communities where we live and work, and we couldn't be more proud to support the Connecticut Science Center in bringing this extensive exhibit to Connecticut," said Rita Ortiz, Director of Community Relations for Travelers. "In particular, we're very excited about the scientific components that will contribute to the education of young people who visit the center."

Early this week, Hartford commuters were greeted by a 55 foot-long animatronic Apatosaurus that has taken temporary residence at the corner of Grove Street and Columbus Boulevard, across the street from the Science Center. The immense creature, which will be activated to move and roar realistically, gives a preview of what visitors to the Science Center can expect when the exhibit opens to the public April 6 and continues through September 2.

The exhibit content was customized to the Science Center's Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center Exhibit Gallery, a 7,000 square foot space, to create a distinct collection of fossils, animatronics and interactive components. *Dinosaurs Unearthed* boasts 14 life-size animatronic dinosaurs and three full-scale articulated skeletons in a realistic, prehistoric habitat. The exhibition showcases these fascinating creatures through storytelling, science and technology while highlighting the latest theories in paleontology. Though dinosaurs are usually portrayed with scaled, reptile-like skin, most scientists now accept the theory that many were actually covered with feathers. *Dinosaurs Unearthed* explores this theory and presents some of the first life-sized models of feathered dinosaurs ever created.

"Stepping into the *Dinosaurs Unearthed* exhibit is like being transported back in time," said Matt Fleury, President and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. "The impressive, life-like replicas of the dinosaurs in their environment paired with the most up-to-date scientific theories and information make it a one-of-a kind immersive and educational experience."

Guided by paleontological findings from around the globe and using state-of-the-art technology, the creators of this captivating exhibit – including scientists, engineers, artists, and live-entertainment producers – have gone to great lengths to make *Dinosaurs Unearthed* as lifelike as possible.

With realistic design and animation, these prehistoric wonders make realistic sounds, open their jaws, breathe, blink their eyes, move their arms, and more – giving visitors a close-up encounter. One of the dinosaurs features push buttons so you can control its actions yourself – if you dare!

Like the rest of the Science Center's other 150+ interactive exhibits, visitors can try their hands at exploring the kid's dinosaur dig table, examine up to 23 fossil specimens, including an Allosaurus skull, and much more. Learn how these massive creatures were unearthed after millions of years and what scientists are doing to further their research on the fossils they find.

"Visitors of all ages are intrigued by dinosaurs," said Fleury. "This exhibition has the sense of mystery and excitement that always surrounds dinosaurs, grounded in the latest science, which makes it completely unique."

The Science Center is extending the dinosaur experience to its Hoffman Foundation Science Theater, located on the lobby level. National Geographic's *Flying Monsters in 3D*, narrated by David Attenborough, will also premiere on April 6 to coincide with the exhibit opening. *Flying Monsters in 3D* is sponsored at the Science Center by Connecticut Business Systems, a Xerox Company, and gives moviegoers a look back 220 million years ago, when dinosaurs were beginning their domination of the Earth. It shows how another group of reptiles were about to make an extraordinary leap: Pterosaurs were taking control of the skies, and the story of how and why these mysterious creatures took to the air is more fantastic than fiction.

Dinosaurs Unearthed opens at the Connecticut Science Center in the Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center Traveling Exhibit Gallery (4th floor) on April 6. A Members-Only Preview will be held on April 5th from 5:30-7:30PM and will also include a movie preview of *Flying Monsters 3D* (registration required). Call (860) 520-2160 to register. Admission to the exhibit is included free with General Admission or a Connecticut Science Center Membership. More information is available at 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. Visitors experience over 150 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 café, and ongoing events and lectures 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. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

About Travelers

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