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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Interactive Humanoid Robot Debuts at Connecticut Science Center *New Exhibit Presented by First Niagara Bank Foundation*

Hartford, CT- October 4, 2012 – The Connecticut Science Center’s newest permanent exhibit opened to the public today with a little humanoid -- but non-human -- help. The star of the Robot Humanoid exhibit, made possible through a donation by First Niagara Bank Foundation, is “Quiz,” a two-foot-tall robot programmed to interact with Science Center visitors. Quiz helped its human counterparts from the Science Center and First Niagara to cut the ribbon on the exhibit this morning, to the delight of onlookers.

Quiz, in fact, has many interactive capabilities, including talking, dancing, karate, and groundbreaking work with children on the autism spectrum. It is housed in a movable plexiglass exhibit structure featuring a dance floor on which Quiz will show off its moves. A video monitor provides images and examples while the robot explains the basics of robotics through words and gestures. Visitors to the Science Center, including students on school field trips, can see periodic performances in Science Alley, the main lobby of the Science Center.

“Like everything we do here, our new robot is both fun and educational,” said Science Center President and Chief Executive Officer Matt Fleury. “Quiz is completely engaging and exciting to watch. More important, it allows us to teach the science of robotics, and give kids in our vacation camps and outreach programs hands-on opportunities to work with this cutting-edge technology.”

The Robot Humanoid exhibit is an integrated system of hardware and software that provides an interactive demonstration of humanoid robotics for visitors of all ages. It is driven by software developed by the Connecticut Science Center’s first Scientist-in-Residence, Tim Gifford. Gifford is Chief Executive Officer of Hartford-based Movia Robotics, a spinoff of the University of Connecticut’s Advanced Interactive Technology Center. The Scientist-in-Residence program is an initiative of the Connecticut Science Center to advance the success of Connecticut innovators and entrepreneurs while exposing the general public to the work of real-world inventors.

“As a new technology company, Movia Robotics is able to grow our visibility and test our concepts in front of a tremendous audience through our partnership with the Connecticut Science Center,” said Gifford. “We also are able to contribute to the Science Center’s mission of engaging our youth in exciting science experiences that may motivate them to become the next generation of inventors.”

Gifford spent part of his summer getting the robot ready for the exhibit with the help of a dozen 16- to 18-year-olds in the Science Center’s Teen Robotics paid employment program. The teens worked with Gifford and other Science Center staff to program the robot to interact with the public, trying out their programming experiments throughout the summer. Along the way, the teens put into practice math and science

concepts while honing 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communicating, and working in teams.

Once the robot was just about ready for prime time, First Niagara sponsored a robot-naming contest in cooperation with Hearst Newspapers. The public was invited to give the robot a personalized identity, based on its capabilities and characteristics. Some 200 entries were submitted from across Connecticut. The winning name of Quiz was submitted by Lisette Valle of Bridgeport, and announced at this morning's ribbon-cutting ceremony. Valle said, "I chose this name because the Connecticut Science Center is the perfect place for inquisitive minds."

For winning the robot-naming contest, Valle received a one-year, four-person Science Center membership package. In addition, the Science Center will bring the robot out for an educational session at a classroom of Valle's choice in the coming months.

As part of the company's support of the Robot Humanoid Exhibit, First Niagara will host Quiz at three of its bank branches in the coming weeks. "Quiz will be a high-tech, interactive brand ambassador for the Science Center," Fleury said.

First Niagara also is hosting a Customer Appreciation Day at the Science Center on Monday, October 8. First Niagara customers will receive 50 percent off General Admission for up to four people when they show their First Niagara debit MasterCard®. Customers can get more information at their local First Niagara branch or on the Science Center website. "We are inviting all of our employees and customers to experience the Science Center at highly discounted prices that day," said Marlene Piche, Senior Vice President of First Niagara's Retail Banking. "We are thrilled to be partnering with the Science Center on this fun and educational Robot Humanoid exhibit."

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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 1,000,000 people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 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 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 First Niagara First Niagara, through its wholly owned subsidiary, First Niagara Bank, N.A., is a multi-state community-oriented bank with nearly 430 branches, approximately \$35 billion in assets, \$28 billion in deposits, and approximately 6,000 employees providing financial services to individuals, families and businesses across Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.firstniagara.com.