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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut's NASA Space Day Takes Off

Space Day Proclamation adds to excitement at the Connecticut Science Center

Hartford, CT- March 30, 2012- The Connecticut Science Center is proud to partner with the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium to celebrate Connecticut's NASA Space Day with out-of-this-world activities for the whole family on Sunday, April 1.

NASA Space Day activities at the Connecticut Science Center will include special one-day-only screenings of the movie 3D Sun. The film offers a chance, for the first time ever, to see the sun up close in dazzling, high-definition 3D. Leading NASA scientists unveil these images and take us behind the scenes to tell the story of the Sun and why a greater understanding of this dynamic star is of crucial importance to us all. The space theme continues with a special "Color Your Cosmos" activity in the Invention Dimension where visitors can work with the Science Center's in-house astrophysicist to select images from the Hubble telescope and then digitally color them in to create their own version of the universe.

Visitors on Sunday will also be able to meet Ed O'Connor, an engineer and inventor who has worked on several NASA Space Programs. A dedicated Science Center volunteer and career professional at Hamilton Sundstrand in Systems Engineering – Space Vehicle Life Support and Thermal Control, Mr. O'Connor will delight visitors by sharing his real-life experiences working in the space industry.

In addition, younger visitors will be treated to space-themed stories during *Story Time* in the Exploring Space Gallery followed by samplings of Astronaut Ice Cream.

The Connecticut Science Center's Exploring Space Gallery has been a popular attraction since the Science Center opened. In the exhibit, visitors can view actual imagery taken from one of NASA's rovers of the largest volcano in the Solar System and other important regions of Mars. Future scientists can also inspect Gene Cernan's Apollo 17 space suit, study an actual moon rock and touch a Mars meteorite. The Exploring Space Gallery is made possible by United Technologies.

An official proclamation from Governor Dan Malloy has designated April 1 as NASA Space Day in the state of Connecticut. The proclamation was given to recognize the many workers within the aerospace industry who advance many new technologies that the public use daily. It distinguishes Connecticut as a powerhouse within the industry, as few states have the depth or breadth of the aerospace industry as Connecticut.

NASA Space Day also falls on the final day of NanoDays™ 2012 activities at the Connecticut Science Center. NanoDays™ is a nationwide festival of educational programs focusing on nanoscale science, engineering and technology. The NanoDays™ 2012 event will add to visitors' NASA Space Day experience. Movie tickets are available for purchase. All other activities are included free with the purchase of General Admission or with a

Connecticut Science Center Membership. More information, including movie schedules, 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.