



NanoDays™

The Biggest Event for the Smallest Science!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate NanoDays™ 2012

Big Fun for the Smallest Science at the Connecticut Science Center

Hartford, CT- March 20, 2012- Discover how Nanoscale science and engineering is revolutionizing science – one small atom at a time. NanoDays™ at the Connecticut Science Center is part of a nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering. Exciting programs for all ages and engaging activities will be held daily from **March 24 through April 1**.

Organized by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net), NanoDays™ takes place nationally, working with science and educational institutions to raise public awareness and understanding of the future of nanoscale science and technology. With more than 200 NanoDays™ events being held across the country, this community-based event is the largest public outreach effort in nanoscale informal science education and brings university researchers together with science educators to create new and unique learning experiences for both children and adults as they explore the miniscule world of atoms, molecules, and nanoscale forces at work.

“Nanotechnology is a perfect example of how something very small can have such big importance,” said Luke Donforth, Ph.D., one of the Connecticut Science Center’s Staff Scientists. “At the Connecticut Science Center, we believe that the tiniest spark of an idea can have widespread impact on everyday life.” Donforth has a passion for the subject and based his doctoral thesis on carbon nanotubes. “This event is a great opportunity to educate visitors about how this cutting edge science applies to their everyday lives.”

NanoDays™ events combine unique hands-on activities with presentations on current research and much more. A range of exciting NanoDays™ programs demonstrate the special and unexpected properties found at the nanoscale, examine tools used by nanoscientists, showcase nano materials with spectacular promise, and invite discussion of technology and society. Visitors can experience activities firsthand, including investigating how some butterfly wings get their color, creating a colorful bookmark using a super thin layer of nail polish on water and learning about the shocking world of static-electricity.

Other activities include an I Spy Nano game, a game in which visitors try to find nano-related object on a game board, learning about the different ways nano is in the world around us. “Real nano gold” is another hands-on activity in which visitors discover that nanoparticles of gold can appear red, orange or even blue. Visitors learn that materials can act differently when it’s nanometer-sized. Visitors will learn through experimentation how some sunblocks that rub in clear contain nanoparticles that block harmful rays from the sun and how they compare to similar ointments.

NanoDays™ programming taking place at the Science Center is included with the cost of general admission or a Connecticut Science Center Membership.

Another NanoDays™ related event the public can take advantage of will be held on Thursday, March 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Yale University’s Davies Auditorium. Yale Professor Jan Schroers “Strong as Steele, but

Pliable as Plastic: Metals Conquering the Nano World,” will give audience members the chance to learn about the manipulation of materials on a nano scale and participate in a hands-on demonstration.

For more information about NanoDays™ please visit, <http://www.nisenet.org/>. For information about the Connecticut Science Center and the “NanoDays™” event, visit 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.