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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Gears up for Winter School Vacation *Extended Hours, Animation Exhibit, NEW 3D Movies & Winter Vacation Day Camps*

Hartford, CT (December 7, 2011) – The Connecticut Science Center has fast become a favorite family destination, especially during school breaks and vacations. To help families extend the fun, the Science Center will offer extended hours through winter school vacation week and will be open **10AM – 6PM December 26 through December 30 and 10AM – 5PM December 31 & January 1**. The Science Center is closed on Christmas Day.

In addition to the more than 150 hands-on exhibits, 3D Movies and Live Science, Science Center visitors can look forward to the latest travelling exhibit, Animation, sponsored locally by First Niagara. This hands-on exhibit promises to get your body moving as you explore the science behind the art of animation. In this stimulating and fun environment, you'll explore animation from concept to finished product — from storyboarding, character design, and drawing techniques to movement, timing, filming, and sound. Larger-than-life graphics of popular Cartoon Network characters provide a colorful backdrop to the exhibit, which also explores the history of animation and features a screening room and a cartoon museum.

And, just in time for the post-holiday break, the Connecticut Science Center will premier a **new 3D Movie on December 17, *Tornado Alley*** sponsored by Alstom. The film features Storm Chasers star, Sean Casey, and the researchers of VORTEX 2 on the most ambitious effort ever made to understand the origins and evolutions of tornadoes. This will be the Connecticut premier of this heart-pounding science adventure. The Science Center's Hoffman Foundation Science Theater features the most advanced digital and audio technologies, along with stadium seating. Viewers are immersed in the world of science!

For those looking for a day camp experience, the Science Center will offer the popular Vacation Exploration Camps December 26 – December 30. Camps are perfect for first through sixth graders with each day exploring a different theme. Topics include animation, cold water critters, engineering, chemicals and robots. These hands-on day camps are filled with engaging science activities and supervised time in the exhibit galleries. Sign up for one day or all week. Prices are \$60 a day with discounts for members and businesses in Downtown Hartford. After hours care is available for an extra fee. For information or to register, please visit www.CTScienceCenter.org/camps.

All exhibits and galleries, including Animation, are included with General Admission or membership. Discount coupons for General Admission are available at First Niagara bank branches while supplies last. Movies require a separate ticket. For more details including a complete movie schedule, please 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.