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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Announces Hartford Residents Visit Free in August

The Travelers Companies, Inc. provides funding to host hundreds of families

Hartford, CT (July 30, 2014) – The Connecticut Science Center is once again partnering with the Hartford Public Library to make science learning and summer fun opportunities available to all Hartford residents this summer. Funding provided by The Travelers Companies, Inc., will grant all city of Hartford residents access to free General Admission to the Science Center in downtown Hartford during the entire month of August. Residents can pick up their free Science Center passes at any Hartford Public Library branch.

"The Library is delighted to participate in this fantastic opportunity for our residents," said Matthew K. Poland, the Library's chief executive officer. "The Connecticut Science Center is a remarkable place for families to spend time together having fun and learning at the same time. We hope even more people participate this year."

The Connecticut Science Center is bringing back the popular program, inspired by Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, after overwhelming success over the past 3 years. Segarra had hoped to "connect all of our residents, especially our youth, with the best assets and opportunities that our community has to offer." Last year, more than 3,500 Hartford residents took advantage of the program by visiting the Science Center.

Free Connecticut Science Center admission for Hartford residents is available only through passes received at Hartford Public Library branches. Passes will be awarded to residents providing library staff with proof of residency, which may include a current driver's license, library card, or recently received U.S. mail showing current name and address. Residents will need to show proof of current Hartford residency at the library location and at the Connecticut Science Center. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Movie tickets are not included in the coupon. Certain restrictions apply.

General Admission includes all day access to all of the Science Center's 165+ hands-on exhibits including the two thrilling traveling exhibits, *Mindbender Mansion*, presented by Travelers, and *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD*, presented locally by Citizens Bank. Both exhibits are on display through August 31 in the Saint Francis Care Traveling Exhibit Gallery on Level 4 of the Science Center. For more information about the Connecticut Science Center, including exhibits, visit www.CTScienceCenter.org.

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Hartford Public Library locations:

500 Main Street: (860) 695-6300

1250 Albany Avenue: (860) 695-7380

261 Barbour Street: (860) 695-7400

649 Blue Hills Ave: (860) 695-7420

30 Campfield Avenue: (860) 695-7440

7 New Park Ave. (Senior Center): (860) 695-7460

460 New Britain Avenue: (860) 695-7480

55 Forrest Street: (860) 695-7540

744 Park Street: (860) 695-7500

1750 Main Street: (860) 695-7520

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 1.6 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 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 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. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

About Hartford Public Library: The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.