



Media Contact:

Tracy Shirer (tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org)

O: 860.520.2116, C: 860.817.1373

Connecticut Science Center | 250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center's #BeautyByMe Girls-Only Hackathon

Lyndsey Scott, high fashion model, actress, and app developer kicks off May 9 event

Hartford, CT— The Connecticut Science Center is proud to present its first-ever Girls Only Hackathon, #BeautyByMe, on May 9 as part of its Celebrating Women in Science initiative. #BeautyByMe will bring together middle and high school girls to develop original apps that help young people confront powerful media messages about how they should look. Girls who participate should come ready to code and show the world that brainy is beautiful.

Participants will enjoy opening remarks from actress, high-fashion model, and app developer Lyndsey Scott, who will share insights on the challenges of being a woman in the computer sciences and reflect on ideas of beauty from around the world. Lyndsey will also meet and greet Science Center guests from 11AM through 12PM in the Science Center's galleries. The special meet and greet is FREE with paid General Admission or #BeautyByMe registration.

#BeautyByMe Event Details:

8AM:	Check-in and breakfast
9AM:	Meet your mentor
9:15AM:	Session #1: Brainstorming and Coding
10AM:	Keynote speaker: model, actress, and app developer Lyndsey Scott
11AM:	Meet & Greet with Lyndsey Scott
12:30PM:	Lunch
1PM:	Session #2: Coding and Packaging
4PM:	Final presentations
4:50PM:	Closing remarks

#BeautyByMe Hackathon registration includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, and a t-shirt. The program is made possible by the Hubbell Foundation. Other program partners include CTCSTA (Connecticut Computer Science Teachers Association), ManyMentors, and Media Sponsor Teentivity.com. For more information, visit CTScienceCenter.org or contact **Amy Sailor** at (860) 520-2163 or asailor@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. Serving 1.8 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 Celebrating Women in Science Initiative The Connecticut Science Center's Women in Science initiative encourages girls and young women to pursue studies and career paths in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and celebrates the achievements of women in the sciences. The initiative seeks to bridge the gender gap in STEM by developing original programming to engage girls in science and to build the community of women in the sciences. The initiative is a joint effort with the **Petit Family Foundation**, which has joined with the Science Center as the Founding Sponsor of this initiative.