

## Connecticut Science Center Announces STEM Achievement Awards Honorees

***Public invited to May 5 award breakfast honoring WFSB Meteorologist, Mark Dixon & Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (CPEP)***

**Hartford, CT**— March 31, 2015— The Connecticut Science Center will present its annual STEM Achievement Awards at a breakfast at the Connecticut Science Center on Tuesday, May 5. The awards recognize one individual and one organization for their outstanding contributions in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and STEM education.

This year's honorees are WFSB Meteorologist Mark Dixon and the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (CPEP). The honorees were selected by a steering committee of educators and science professionals that reviewed nominations submitted by the public. "We are proud to honor Mark Dixon and CPEP for their extraordinary work in promoting science education in our community," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "The work that Mark and CPEP are doing impacts young minds and strengthens the outlook for tomorrow's workforce in STEM careers."

Mark Dixon has distinguished himself both as a meteorologist and as a leading ambassador for STEM. A member of the American Meteorological Society, Mr. Dixon has been recognized by his peers with the prestigious AMS Seal of Approval. Nominated for multiple Emmy Awards for weather anchoring; Mr. Dixon also won the award for "Best Weathercast" from the Connecticut Associated Press Broadcaster's Association for 2006 and 2010. Using his visibility as a media figure who practices science professionally, Mr. Dixon has, with the support of his employer, made science a familiar topic on Connecticut's television screens. Mark's love of science is contagious and his creation of a popular "Science Sunday" morning segment has sparked viewer interest in the STEM fields and has gained science fans across the state of Connecticut. "It was honor enough to be nominated with such a group of talented and worthy individuals," said Mark Dixon. "I have so enjoyed the role afforded to me by WFSB and the Connecticut Science Center, to convey STEM through multiple platforms, reaching a wide and varied audience."

A nationally award winning organization, the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (CPEP) was formed in 1986 to inspire students from underrepresented groups, including women and minorities, to pursue careers in STEM fields. In the last 27 years, CPEP has grown to serve 1,800 students each school year through students each school year through transformative after school, Saturday and summer experiences. The organization received the Presidential Award from the National Science Foundation and the Golden Touch Award from the National Society of Black Engineers, among other accolades. Involvement in CPEP has significantly changed countless under-represented Connecticut students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors relating to the pursuit of STEM careers. Bruce Dixon, CPEP CEO was grateful for the recognition and stated, "We are humbled by this recognition and are grateful to all of the parents, investor and teachers who work with us each day to create brighter futures for the students we serve."

The Connecticut Science Center Awards for Achievement in STEM Innovation and Education debuted at the Green Gala in 2012. Past honorees include Governor Dannel Malloy, Google Ideas CEO Jared Cohen, The Travelers Companies, Inc., and United Technologies Corporation. In recognition of the high profile of these awards, they will now be presented at a new, exclusive annual event, drawing community and business leaders from around the region.

For tickets and sponsorship information for the STEM Achievement Awards breakfast, sponsored by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, please contact Nicole Carelli at 860.520.2147 or [ncarelli@ctsciencecenter.org](mailto:ncarelli@ctsciencecenter.org). Tickets for the general public will be available April 1 on the Science Center's website at [CTScienceCenter.org](http://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](http://www.CTScienceCenter.org) or 860.SCIENCE.