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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Kicks Off Monster Summer with 2-Millionth Visitor Celebration
Ceremony includes 47-foot T. rex, new exhibits, a giant shark cake and a new Frozen Yogurt venue!

Hartford, CT, July 8, 2015 –The Connecticut Science Center is celebrating a major milestone with a monster kick-off to the summer season, complete with a 47-foot animatronic *T. rex*, new exhibits, a six-foot shark cake, and a brand new on-site frozen yogurt venue. The celebration honored the Science Center’s 2-millionth visitor with a special ceremony in Science Alley, the Science Center’s lobby level.

“From presenting major exhibitions to helping parents and teachers prepare students for the innovation economy, our team is working to make Connecticut a better place to live, raise a family, and find great ideas—a place full of talent where families flourish,” said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. “The Board of Trustees and I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of the two million people we have had the opportunity to serve since we opened six years ago, and to thank the marvelous professional team and generous donors who have made it happen.”

The celebratory 6-foot shark cake, designed and created by renowned baker Carol Murdock of Classic Cakes, was cut by the Luna family, longtime Science Center members and supporters, who were chosen to mark the ceremonial two-million-visitor milestone.

“We love the Science Center,” said Laura-Lee Luna. “It’s great to know that while we’re here having fun and learning as a family, our contribution helps support the Science Center’s educational initiatives. We’re so happy to help celebrate two million visitors to a place that inspires our family’s curiosity and wonder with every visit!”

Just in time to join the 6-foot shark cake, a new FroyoWorld frozen yogurt lounge is now open inside the Science Center. FroyoWorld serves a variety sweet treats and frozen delights, including low-fat options and sorbet, from its 350-square-foot location on the Lobby Level of the Science Center, facing the north plaza entrance.

“The Science Center is the perfect spot for Hartford’s first FroyoWorld yogurt lounge,” said franchisee Mark Miele. “Our frozen yogurt and sorbet are amazing ways to start or end a day of hands-on science exploration. We couldn’t be happier to serve the Science Center’s guests and members, and to bring the fun flavors of FroyoWorld to new friends across downtown Hartford.”

The 2-millionth visitor celebration took place as the Science Center’s monster summer of sharks and dinosaurs began. The jaw-dropping 3D movie, *Great White Shark*, and the blockbuster traveling exhibit, *Extreme Dinosaurs*, which includes a 47-foot animatronic *T. rex* that’s so big it has to be displayed outside, are both on view throughout the summer. In addition, the Science Center is partnering with the Discovery

Channel to promote their popular Shark Week. Science Center members can see *Great White Shark 3D* for half price during Shark Week, and the general public can partake in shark-themed activities and giveaways during the entire run of Shark Week programming from July 5 to 12.

In addition to the *Extreme Dinosaurs* traveling exhibition, the Science Center is also launching four new permanent exhibits. The *Planetary Soup Cans* exhibit allows visitors to feel how the same object varies in weight due to different planets' forces of gravity. Using the new *Newton's Air Hockey* exhibit, users can experiment with Newton's Laws while playing the arcade favorite. *Driven by Innovation*, a hands-on driving simulator presented by The Hartford, lets users test the latest safe driving technology. Visitors can take apart and put together a lifelike human skeleton at the new *Skeletal Assembly Table*. These four new exhibits reflect the Science Center's ongoing commitment to present innovative new exhibits so that visitors always have something new to explore.

Access to these new interactive exhibits is included with the purchase of General Admission or with a Connecticut Science Center Membership. Kids under 3 are FREE. For information, including pricing and hours, visit 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 2 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: CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.