

Sciencenter Connection: Sciencenter quake exhibit shakes things up



TIM SCOTT
Sciencenter Connection

Nearly one year ago, the Sciencenter shook when a 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Virginia. Now, there's more shaking going on down at the Sciencenter!

Debuting in August is the Sciencenter's newest traveling exhibition, *When the Earth Shakes*. Developed in collaboration with Cornell University and funded by the National Science Foundation, this exhibition focuses on the science of earthquakes and how scientists and engineers are working together to make the world a safer place.

When the Earth Shakes offers the Sciencenter the unique opportunity to further highlight the research of earthquake scientists and engineers, as well as share this information with other communities throughout North America as part of our national traveling exhibition program.

Families are invited to explore the science of earthquakes and earthquake engineering through exciting and engaging interactive exhibits. Go for a high score as you jump on the platform to match an historic seismogram on *Quake Karaoke*. The *Seismic Monitor* updates hourly to display the hundreds of global earthquakes that occur every week. Try your hand at *Puzzled Earth* by matching the Earth's tectonic plates before time runs out and the puzzle pieces fall. Spin through geologic history with *Plates in Motion*, an engaging and beautiful high definition video display. Kids can even become an earthquake engineer as they design and build structures that withstand earthquakes on the *Shake Table*.

In the *Earthquake Theater*, you can watch fast-paced videos of real engineers working to make our world safer, including Cornell University engineers testing the flexibility of pipelines to withstand tremors. Cornell is one of 14 universities that participate in the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES). The *NEEShub* touchscreen exhibit showcases the work being done at each of these research laboratories.

Scientists at Cornell's NEES laboratory had helped the Sciencenter develop its first earthquake exhibition. The positive audience response and additional funding from the National Science Foundation resulted in an opportunity for the Sciencenter's exhibits team to expand and tour the new and updated version. *When the Earth Shakes* is at the Sciencenter now through January. Then it will travel nationwide for many years to come. So now's your chance to come down to the Sciencenter and shake things up!

Tim Scott is the director of exhibits and facilities at the Sciencenter. Sciencenter Connection appears the second Thursday of the month in Ticket.