Curious. Confident. Inspired.

These three words capture the Sciencenter of today—an integrated program that begins early in life and provides science engagement at each stage, as children grow and develop.

Curious: Every crib holds a scientist. We encourage parents, caregivers, and teachers to help children—starting at birth—to explore the world and discover the amazing science and technology that surround us 24/7, whether in our kitchens, our cars, our schools, or right outside our doors.

Confident: When children do it, they call it “play”—when adults do it, they call it “research.” As children blossom in their elementary years, their curiosity knows no bounds. By reinforcing their questions and sharing in their discoveries, adults can build children’s confidence that they are practicing science every day as they explore their expanding world.

Inspired: The greatest achievement I have ever made was asking myself why and how. Adolescence is a sensitive time of rapid change. To engage middle schoolers, science must become an empowering, social activity that incorporates teaching others and solving problems that matter. Our Future Science Leaders program supports teens as they share science with our guests, learn critical thinking skills, and solve real problems.

In the past year, we have redoubled our efforts, through the Sciencenter Campaign, Curious. Confident. Inspired., to empower children to use science in shaping a better future. In the pages that follow, you’ll read about new exhibits, such as our Sciencenter Mini-Golf course and Tidepool Touch Tank; new programs, such as our Head Start Teacher and Family Workshops and Science Together; and new efforts to provide access to every corner of our community, such as our Museums For All $1 admission program and Sensory Hours for children with sensory integration challenges.

All of this is possible because of you—our remarkable staff, trustees, sponsors, volunteers, members, and community supporters. We are continually grateful for all that you do, so that the Sciencenter can serve the youth of our community and beyond.

Thank you!

Charlie Trautmann     Greg Galvin
Executive Director     Chair, Board of Trustees

CONTENTS

Letter of Welcome ........................................... 2
Learning Families .......................................... 3
The Sciencenter Campaign ............................... 4
Inspiring Excitement for Science .................... 6
Ensuring Access for All .................................. 10
Impact at the Local and National Levels ............ 11
Snapshot of Our Year ..................................... 12
Individual Giving ......................................... 14
Corporate Giving and Grants ......................... 17
Charlie’s 25th Anniversary ............................ 18
Sciencenter Staff .......................................... 19
Sciencenter Board ........................................ 20
The Catalyst Society ...................................... 21
Financial Report ........................................... 22
The Sciencenter Endowment ............................ 23

LEARNING FAMILIES

The needs of children differ profoundly at each developmental stage, so we design our exhibits and programs carefully to emphasize learning at each stage, and gain the support of the adults who can leverage our efforts. Weekly family workshops help spark interest in our young learners and provide parents with the tools and support systems to help them better engage with their children.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SCIENCE

The Sciencenter is fostering a new generation of youth empowered to address the global challenges of our times. Through targeted, age-appropriate programs and exhibits, the Sciencenter inspires and supports children in pursuing healthier, better lives and in making better decisions for their futures, ranging from personal choices about health and education to global choices on food, water, and energy.

1 EARLY EXPLORERS

Curiosity
Creativity
ages 0 - 5

2 YOUNG SCIENTISTS

+ Confidence
+ Collaboration
ages 5 - 11

3 FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS

+ Critical Thinking
+ Communication
+ Leadership & Responsibility
ages 11 - 14

Three initiatives to empower every young person to use science in shaping a better future:
What we’ve accomplished so far…

We’ve expanded the Curiosity Corner area for kids under five with double the space for exhibits and activities; added new workshops for parents and teachers on nurturing scientific exploration; opened a new NY Natives Animal room; installed a new Maine coast touch tank featuring whelks, sea stars, horseshoe crabs, and hermit crabs; installed a brand new 10.5-hub science-themed mini golf course; and expanded access for low-income families.

What’s coming, over the next few years?

We’ll continue to add new exhibit areas and new and exciting educational programs, including:

**EARLY EXPLORERS**
- New outdoor Curiosity Playground
- New hands-on exhibits that focus on sensory learning, motor skills, and discovery

**YOUNG SCIENTISTS**
- New galleries filled with exhibits on Ocean Science, Sustainability, and Health
- A new and expanded exhibits on light, sound, chemistry, climate, and more
- Expansion of the Sagan Planet Walk, including the first permanent exhibit on the Moon

**FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS**
- An expanded Future Science Leaders program
- A new Team Learning Lab with a well-equipped, re-configured space to complement our work with parents to build science museum exhibits, make videos, conduct scientific research, and prepare for leading public citizen-science programs.
EARLY EXPLORERS
This initiative supports the curiosity and creativity of early learners ages 0-5, through programming, parent workshops, preschool science curriculum, and research.

Early Education Programming
The Early Explorers programs help children reach their potential by developing good learning habits early in life. We engage and educate parents and other caregivers through weekly parent-child workshops; we host an Itty Bitty Scientist camp session for children entering Kindergarten to grade 1; and we provide workshops and professional development for families and teachers of Head Start.

Curiosity Corner Programming
Focused on our youngest guests, the Curiosity Corner features twice-weekly Story Time programs for children 4 and under. Activities might include hearing the story Hand, Hand, Finger, Thumb by Al Perkins and making thumb print animals. In the past year, programs in the Curiosity Corner have drawn 1,094 children.

Parent-Child Workshops
We offer Science Together for parents and caregivers and their young children. These recurring programs shared science skills and hands-on activities with 436 adults and 443 children in 2015. Such activities empower parents to work with their children as young scientists by making observations using their senses, making predictions, categorizing, and experimenting. Children might mix vinegar and color with baking soda to learn about texture and color mixing.

Family Engagement Workshops
Sciencenter leads family engagement workshops for Head Start and Early Head Start families. These workshops are held once each month in the community and once each month at the Sciencenter. In 2015, 578 children and their caregivers participated in hands-on workshops to help develop science process skills. Activities include building towers, rolling different kinds of balls dipped in paint to observe the patterns, and using straws to blow different materials.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Tompkins Community Action (Head Start and Early Head Start)
Sciencenter staff delivers monthly professional development workshops for every Head Start and Early Head Start teacher in Tompkins County. We share research on how children learn and share lessons, tools, and materials so teachers can engage young children in science learning.

Downtown Ithaca Children’s Center (DICC)
Each month, a Sciencenter educator leads professional development workshops for the preschool teachers at DICC. We share research and examples of hands-on activities so teachers can engage their young students in science learning.
The Discovery Space offers families a quiet place to build confidence and bolster the collaborative spirit of children ages 5-11, this initiative emphasizes open-ended exhibit experiences and reimagined educational programs and activities.

The Discovery Space

In 2015, 13,511 guests participated in activities in the Discovery Space.

NanoDays sponsor

Showtime and Interactive Presentations

Showtime! and Interactive Presentations

Mentoring

More than 2,200 guests experienced science in action through weekly interactive amphitheater programs and shows, which reached 790 museum guests. These shows give students the opportunity to hone their communication skills, develop and share hands-on activities, and be the “expert” in something they are passionate about.

Discovery Space

Our interactive educational programs cover an array of topics such as energy, robotics, physics, tornadoes, chemistry, light, liquid nitrogen, and insects and reptiles, to name just a few.

In the Community

Citizen Science

Citizen Science was trained by local experts from the Community Science Institute and the Finger Lakes Institute, FSL participants filmed interviews with research scientists and created stop-motion videos showing hands-on activities linked to research. They also produced newsletters and videos to share the highlights of summer camp with families and to document their work.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Starlab Outreach

Using Starlab, our portable planetarium, we provided programs for 200 children at Cayuga Heights, Bright Horizons, and Enfield Elementary Schools.

Sponsored Field Trips

In partnership with Ask Discover the Trail!, 589 students participated in field trips to the Sciencenter to learn about renewable energy and participate in an engineering challenge to build their own windmills. We learn about our watershed, and experience our live animal Tidepool Touch Tank. Additionally, 478 2nd grade students in Tompkins County and in the City of Cortland took a sponsored field trip to the Sciencenter.

NanoDays

NanoDays 2015-2016 Exhibitions

Sponsored Field Trips

In partnership with Ask Discover the Trail!, 589 students participated in field trips to the Sciencenter to learn about renewable energy and participate in an engineering challenge to build their own windmills. We learn about our watershed, and experience our live animal Tidepool Touch Tank. Additionally, 478 2nd grade students in Tompkins County and in the City of Cortland took a sponsored field trip to the Sciencenter.

In 2015, FSL participants led more than 900 guests in hands-on activities. 560 6th grade students visited the Sciencenter to explore programming exhibits, and technology. Back at school, they developed hands-on activities and videos to communicate scientific concepts from their 6th grade science classes.

Mentoring

Serving as Counselors-in-Training (CIT), FSL participants mentored our summer science campers, presented Touch Tank programs for campers, and led hands-on activities with guests.

FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS

FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS

The Future Science Leaders (FSL) program for middle school children focuses on leadership, communication, and critical thinking. Participants in the program learn science content that they communicate with Sciencenter guests through four different strands:

• Mentoring: guiding younger children in science exploration
• Citizen Science: leading guests in scientific experiments and exploration
• New Media: using technology to connect others with science
• Exhibits: learning the tools and trade of exhibit building

New Media

FSL participants filmed interviews with research scientists and created stop-motion videos showing hands-on activities linked to research. They also produced newsletters and videos to share the highlights of summer camp with families and to document their work.

Empowerment Through Science: High School

Last year, 26 high school students led educational science activities through programs and events, such as our weekly Chimera! and Lightapalooza! amphitheater shows, which reached 760 museum guests. These shows give students the opportunity to hone their communication skills, develop and share hands-on activities, and be the “expert” in something they are passionate about.

Empowerment

Empowerment Through Science: High School

Our interactive educational programs cover an array of topics such as energy, robotics, physics, tornadoes, chemistry, light, liquid nitrogen, and insects and reptiles, to name just a few.

Field Trip Programs

Our interactive educational programs cover an array of topics such as energy, robotics, physics, tornadoes, chemistry, light, liquid nitrogen, and insects and reptiles, to name just a few.

NanoDays

NanoDays 2015-2016 Exhibitions

2015-2016 Exhibitions

Discovery Space

The Discovery Space offers families a quiet place to explore the world of science through activity kits and games. Guests investigate a wide variety of science topics including magnets, fossils, and electricity. In 2015, 13,511 guests participated in activities in the Discovery Space.

Science Playground

Kids enjoy science outside with hands-on exhibits that let them climb and hang, make music, investigate bubbles, and bounce on the world's ONLY Kevlar suspension bridge.

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ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL

These programs allow all members of our community, regardless of financial means or location, to visit the Sciencenter.

Membership Access Program (MAP)

This program ensures that all children living in Tompkins and surrounding counties, regardless of financial means, can visit us as often as they’d like without cost as a barrier. The Sciencenter provides free family memberships to families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. Currently 470 families participate, which accounts for 18% of Sciencenter memberships. Gifts to the Sciencenter Annual Fund make this program possible.

Museums for All

Museums for All offers $1 admission per person for families who have an EBT card. In 2015, 1,231 people used this program to visit the Sciencenter. Gifts made to the Sciencenter Annual Fund make this program possible.

Spooky Science

Spooky Science welcomed 2,588 guests. With sensory integration challenges. Parents and children can make connections with other families and parents participated in Sciencenter’s free Family Science Nights at local elementary schools, with physics and engineering as primary themes in 2015-2016. In 2015, 50 volunteers helped lead activities, and 710 students and parents participated in Sciencenter’s free Family Science Nights at Cayuga Heights, Cortland, Dryden, and Enfield Elementary Schools.

Agency Pass Program

In partnership with local health and human service agencies, the Sciencenter opens its doors to local families as needed. We welcomed 2,246 clients of these agencies in 2015. The Agency Pass program is supported by the Sciencenter’s Corporate Membership Program.

Family Science Nights

We engage entire communities in hands-on science activities at local elementary schools, with physics and engineering as primary themes in 2015-2016. In 2015, 50 volunteers helped lead activities, and 710 students and parents participated in Sciencenter’s free Family Science Nights at Cayuga Heights, Cortland, Dryden, and Enfield Elementary Schools.

Leading Nanotechnology Learning and Building with Biology

As one of the leading organizations for the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NSF Net), the Sciencenter directs the development of NSF Net educational products, leads the annual National Nanoscale Hands-On Event, and coordinates a network of museum partners in the northeastern U.S. Using educational science activities developed by the Sciencenter, over 500,000 guests in 250 U.S. museums experience applications of nanotechnology in everyday life. Last fall, the Sciencenter joined eight other host museums around the country to pilot a special day of hands-on activities and conversations about the future of biologic engineering.

Touring Exhibitions in North America

Through the Sciencenter’s international traveling exhibition program, we engage over 1 million museum guests in science each year. The Sciencenter tours exhibitions to other museums throughout the United States and Canada. In 2015, the Sciencenter toured 11 exhibitions, 7 of which were developed or co-developed by the Sciencenter with support from the National Science Foundation and other sponsors.

“As the father of an autistic child, I wish to applaud the Sciencenter for its consideration in setting up Sensory Hours for special needs children. My son noticeably appreciated the gentler lighting, less crowded spaces, and wide variety of sensory activities.” – Dan, Sensory Hour Attendee

LIMITS OF SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

All content was fact-checked and verified for accuracy. However, the Sciencenter's role in the scientific community is to promote scientific literacy and understanding, not to conduct original research. Therefore, we strive to present information in a way that aligns with current scientific consensus and best practices, but we do not claim the content represents definitive scientific conclusions. Readers are encouraged to consult multiple sources for a comprehensive understanding of any topic.
In 2015, Sciencenter EXHIBITIONS traveled to 13 STATES AND 2 CANADIAN PROVINCES.

2,491 guests attended PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY.

51,766 guests attended PROGRAMS AT THE SCIENCENTER.

12,405 FREE VISITS THROUGH ACCESS PROGRAMS.

2,000 GALLONS OF WATER in our aquatic exhibits.

8,385 PEOPLE touched a horseshoe crab for the first time.

88 HOLES-IN-ONE AND 214 FREE GAMES WON on the new mini-golf course.

102,914 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

1,996 HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS* TESTED (EATEN) BY STAFF

1,996 HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS* TESTED (EATEN) BY STAFF

50,000 INSECTS fed to our animal collection.

83 THANK-YOU LETTERS written to the Sciencenter from students on field trips.

623 KIDS made + played with 12 GALLONS OF SLIME.

220 SHOWTIME! PRESENTERS engaged and educated audiences.

5,214 VOLUNTEER HOURS brightened the experiences of our guests.

2,000 DAYTIME STARGAZERS visited STARLAB (our portable planetarium).

83 HOLES-IN-ONE

12 13

12,405 FREE VISITS

83 THANK-YOU LETTERS

*part of a project by staff member Alexis’ husband to screen breeding lines for chip color.

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Thanks for the $1,000. A great way to build a better future—ensure that all families can benefit from your center.
"What a treasure the solar project is to power a sustainability exhibit area. Solar panels will be placed on our roof and will power the entire facility, thereby reducing our carbon footprint and demonstrating the importance of sustainability.

If we have made any inadvertent errors or omissions in the preparation of this donor list, please accept our apologies.您的捐款将用于支持我们中心的可持续发展项目。太阳能电池板将被安装在我们的屋顶上，为整个设施供电，从而减少我们的碳足迹，并展示可持续发展的重要性。如果您在准备此捐赠者名单时发现了任何错误或遗漏，请接受我们歉意。

CORPORATE GIVING AND GRANTS
BorgWarner Morse Systems
Cargill Deciding Technology
Fiduciary Charitable Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
M&T Charitable Foundation
NASA New York Space Port Consortium
NSF through Museum of Science–Synthetic Biology: A Multisite Public Engagement Consortium
NSF through Tompkins County Tourism Program
Tompkins County Charitable Gift Fund
Tompkins County Tourism Program
Tompkins County+•
The Benevity Community Impact
Arnold Printing Corporation
Anonymous
The Marvin and Annette Lee Foundation
Corning Incorporated Foundation
Dave Burbank Photography
True Insurance
Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce
Security Mutual Insurance
Therm, Inc.

Security Mutual Insurance
T. Miller, P.C.
Tompkins County Area Development Corporation
Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce
Tompkins Insurance Agencies, Inc.
True Insurance

$25,000 – $49,999
Cargill Deciding Technology
Fiduciary Charitable Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
M&T Charitable Foundation
NASA New York Space Port Consortium
NSF through Museum of Science–Synthetic Biology: A Multisite Public Engagement Consortium
NSF through Tompkins County Tourism Program
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Corning Incorporated Foundation
Dave Burbank Photography
True Insurance
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Security Mutual Insurance
Therm, Inc.

Security Mutual Insurance
T. Miller, P.C.
Tompkins County Area Development Corporation
Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce
Tompkins Insurance Agencies, Inc.
True Insurance

$1,000 – $4,999
Eighty-Quinte Foundation
The Marvin and Annette Lee Foundation
Tompkins Financial Advisors

$250 – $499
Dow Cardinal Photography
Corning Incorporated Foundation
Elma Savings Bank
First National Bank of Groton
Fracture Analysis Consultants
Hilton Garden Inn, Ithaca
King Ferry Winery
Linden Gustie Lookian, Litchfield
Richardson Bros. Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Corning Incorporated Foundation
Elma Savings Bank
First National Bank of Groton
Fracture Analysis Consultants
Hilton Garden Inn, Ithaca
King Ferry Winery
Linden Gustie Lookian, Litchfield
Richardson Bros. Electrical Contractors, Inc.

- indicates matching gift
+ indicates donor-directed gifts
> indicates in-kind gift
* indicates grant award

In our area.

- indicates matching gift
> indicates in-kind gift
* indicates grant award

- indicates matching gift
October 1, 2015 marked Charlie Trautmann’s 25th anniversary as executive director of the Sciencenter. In those 25 years, over the course of five successful community builds, Charlie shepherded the Sciencenter from a tiny, storefront venture to a vibrant, welcoming, nationally recognized center for science learning.

Through Charlie’s visionary leadership, the Sciencenter reaches over 100,000 guests locally each year and over one million guests nationally, and has a solid reputation for growth and innovation both locally and among its national and international peers in the museum community. It has won 38 awards in the past two decades, including 13 “Best of Ithaca” awards and 3 international “Leading Edge for Innovative Business Practices” awards.

Because of Charlie’s extraordinary dedication, passion, and tireless efforts, the Sciencenter remains one of our region’s great educational treasures, and continues to have a positive lasting impact not only on our community, but also on the museum field.

Charlie has made science education his life’s work and leads the charge to inspire and empower youth to use science in shaping a better future for themselves, their communities, and for the world.

Thank you, Charlie, for your many years of commitment and devotion to the Sciencenter, science education, and the museum field!
TRIBUTE GIFTS
In honor of Suzanne Spitz and in support of Family Science Nights, Leilani Adams, Lynn Schmeidler, Margaret C. Frank, and Nanci Sherrill
In honor of Debbie Levin, Joyce Putnam
In honor of Elma Levine, Joyce Putnam
In honor of Charlie Trautmann, Daniel Feldman & Martha Stamm
In honor of Patrick O’Neill
In memory of Debra Levin, Joyce Putnam
In memory of Elma Levine, Joyce Putnam

THE CATALYST SOCIETY
Honoring individuals who invest in the future of the Sciencenter by including a gift to the Sciencenter’s endowment in their living philanthropy or estate plan.

The Catalyst society extends its deepest appreciation to our Catalyst Society Members:

Jane Bassett
William Bassett
Hans Bertha*
Rose Beth
Janice Buirge
G. Walton Cotrell
Jean Cotrell
Robert Cowie

Dr. & Mrs. Fred H.
Kubely
Bob McGuire
John Morton*
Jane Hadfield*
Hans Bethe*
Robert Cowie
Rose Bethe
Janice Buirge
G. Walton Cotrell
Jean Cotrell
Robert Cowie

Suzanne Spitz
Edmund Sutton
Bruce Thompson
Kate Thompson
Charlie Trautmann
Franky Trautman
Nancy Trautmann
Carol Tranos
Mack Travis

MEMORIAL GIFTS
In memory of Professor George Heis, Holly & Michael Kaufmann
In memory of Corinne Backhouse, Martha & Steve Robertson

SUPPORT NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE: BOB AND VANNE COwie

"Children are influenced early in life as to what their capabilities and career are. Exposing them to science and technology at an early age, and developing the sense of wonder, mystery, and excitement that is an integral part of science, can give them the confidence in their ability to understand and participate in scientific endeavors, and the motivation to become scientifically literate, and perhaps set them on a path to real scientific and technological careers. Bob and Vanne Cowie believe in the Sciencenter's commitment to exposing people of all ages, but particularly young people, to the excitement and adventure of science, and providing support in perpetuity. "We believe that the Sciencenter is a truly exciting place and a wonderful community resource. We appreciate the good work that the Sciencenter continues to do for young people, and hope the Sciencenter would continue its good work for many more years to come. Gifts for current operations are very important as well, but an endowment provides support in perpetuity.""

For more information, please contact the Sciencenter's Development Department at 607-253-6100, ext. 2120.

To help the Sciencenter continue its work for years to come, Bob and Vanne made an endowment gift to the Sciencenter and are members of the Catalyst Society. "This is our way of saying that we think the community has supported the activities offered. We feel that the community has supported this fine institution and we feel that the community has supported the activities offered. We feel that the community has supported this fine institution and we want to give back to the community that has been so supportive."
FINANCIAL REPORT

The Sciencenter places highest priority on sound fiscal management to ensure that every dollar is put to the best possible use in helping us fulfill our mission of inspiring excitement for science in children through interactive exhibits and programs that engage, educate, and empower.

2015 ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Sciencenter Endowment is a set of funds that we invest long-term to generate income to support the museum and its core programs. The contributed amount, or principal, remains invested in perpetuity, and a portion of the income generated each year supports the Sciencenter.

As a not-for-profit organization relying on admission and membership income, grants, and private gifts, annual income from the endowment helps keep Sciencenter admission prices low and allows us to create innovative exhibits and programs each year. During 2015, the endowment provided $227,000 in operating support, or 4.9% of the Sciencenter’s budget.

2015 Operating Revenue: $2,513,051

2015 Expenses: $2,610,411

Endowment Value

- $5,500,000
- $5,000,000
- $4,500,000
- $4,000,000
- $3,500,000
- $3,000,000
- $2,500,000
- $2,000,000
- $1,500,000
- $1,000,000
- $500,000
- $100,000
- $50,000
- $10,000

Gifts

Value of Endowment

2015 ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

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<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>New Funds received in 2015</th>
<th>Fund value as of 12/31/15*</th>
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<td>Board Designated Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>25th Anniversary Fund</td>
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<td>Field Trip Fund</td>
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<td>Fund for New Initiatives Fund</td>
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<td>Sharon Bloch Event Fund</td>
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<td>Brook’s Family Foundation Fund for Ocean Education</td>
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<td>John and Ruth Morton Fund for Community Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth and Richard Hutcheson Fund for Science Education</td>
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</tbody>
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2015 ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT: $3,300,517

* Reflects total contributions to date plus income earned, less payout of 4.5% to fund designated purpose.