Our National Reach
by Charlie Trautmann, Executive Director

Many people are surprised to learn that the Sciencenter is more than just a local organization. Our numerous national efforts support our local work in connecting families with science to shape a better future. Most of these efforts began years ago on a small scale; as we’ve grown, our national and global reach has increased as well.

Traveling exhibitions. The Sciencenter is a major resource for small science exhibitions worldwide. We are currently touring ten traveling exhibitions that have appeared in 133 museums in 43 states and 3 foreign countries. While we create most of the exhibitions we tour, we also manage exhibitions for other museums. To date, we have brought engaging science — from nanotechnology to ocean science — to over 2 million museum guests, with the rental income supporting about 20% of our annual budget.

Head Start. This preschool program reaches low-income children throughout the U.S. Historically, Head Start programs have provided minimal science learning; this year we set out to change that. With a federal National Museum Leadership Grant, we’re leading a collaborative of six museums that are expanding science programming for Head Start. Best practices developed through the grant will serve 900,000 Head Start children in 50 states each year.

NISE Net. You have likely seen nanotechnology exhibits similar to ours in other museums. These exhibits, which we played a key role in developing, appear in 97 museums nationwide through a major grant from the National Science Foundation.

Boards and Committees. Our staff regularly makes presentations, writes articles, and serves on committees throughout the museum field. During the past 11 years, I have served on the boards of the Washington, DC-based Association of Science-Technology Centers and Association of Children’s Museums. Through these connections, we became the first museum to officially adopt the Museums For All program in 2014. This program allows low-income guests with an EBT card to visit the Sciencenter for $1 per person.

Many of these efforts are made possible because of programs supported by donations to our Capital Campaign, Curious. Confident. Inspired. To date, our Campaign has raised $2.9 million of our $3.8 million goal. Thank you for sharing our vision and supporting our efforts!

Help us make sure all kids in our community have access to engaging and exciting science learning. Make a gift today! Learn more about the Campaign at www.sciencenter.org.
The Sciencenter participates in a number of national collaborative projects with other organizations from our field. From the National Informal STEM Network (NISE Net) to the Collaborative for Early Science Learning (CESL), the Sciencenter is a national leader in the development and dissemination of hands-on science activities and professional development tools; which also helps to enrich the experiences of our own guests.

Over the last three years, the Sciencenter has worked with Tompkins County’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Historically, Head Start helps low-income children with literacy and math skills but lags in science process skill development. To combat this, we provide monthly professional development to teachers, to help them integrate those skills into their classrooms.

With support from a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Sciencenter is now sharing this successful local model on a national scale through the Sciencenter-led CESL. The collaborative brings together children and science museums from across the country to develop and share best practices in teacher professional development, with a particular focus on low-income families. Partner museums, from California to Florida, are currently constructing a comprehensive suite of professional development tools for the museum field so that others can replicate our model of teacher and family engagement. We recently shared our tools and models at conferences for both museum professionals and regional Head Start organizers.

Locally, Sciencenter guests aid in the testing and evaluation phases of toolkit development for both NISE Net and CESL. We then integrate these activities into floor programs, after school enrichment, and into our summer camp sessions. The guest feedback provides our national partners with valuable information to improve activities, and our local community both benefits from the research process and becomes part of the national effort to support youth science education across the country.

For more information, contact Michelle Kortenaar, Director of Program, at 607.272.0600 x 124.

Opening Soon: Curiosity Playground

We are expanding the exhibits and programming spaces for our youngest guests just in time for summer! Recently, we expanded our indoor Curiosity Corner to include more exhibits that engage our Early Explorers and encourage parents and caregivers to facilitate conversations around their child’s development. Part of this expansion also includes a family learning area that provides designated space for educational programs, open-ended activities, and research opportunities for our partners at Cornell’s Early Childhood Cognition Lab.

Perhaps the most anticipated part of our expansion is the introduction of the Curiosity Playground, an 1,800 square foot outdoor space dedicated to children under 5, opening this summer. The beautifully designed space will feature a sand play area, an innovative structure for crawling and climbing, and space to develop science learning activities in the future. We are excited to take the museum to the next level for future generations of young scientists!
Renew Your Membership for Summer

Now more than ever it's an extraordinary time to be a Sciencenter Member!

Through our Capital Campaign, Curious. Confident. Inspired., we are hard at work providing you and your family with many new exhibits and programs, including 3 new galleries, new hands-on experiences, a new Curiosity Playground for children under 5, a family learning area, and more space for our teen Future Science Leaders. Our aim is to inspire kids from birth to high school through targeted exhibits and programs that foster science learning in each age group.

Become a member or renew today to take advantage of these new experiences. And don’t forget, Sciencenter members receive free admission to over 325 science museums worldwide through the Association of Science-Technology Centers Travel Passport Program.

Call us at 607.272.0600 or visit Sciencenter.org today.

The Sciencenter is a Proud Member of:

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For Sciencenter Corporate Membership information, call Christine Bissen at 607.272.0600 x 119, or visit www.sciencenter.org.
**Summer Hours**

Tuesday – Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm  
Sunday: Noon – 5 pm  
Open Mondays in July and August.  
Open Independence Day and Labor Day.

**Admission**

Members: Free  
Kids under 2: Free  
Kids (2 – 17): $6  
Adults (18+): $8  
Seniors (65+): $7

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**Featured Summer Exhibition**

Investigate the science of motion while creating your own race tracks, roller coasters, and super highways at our summer exhibition, **Motion Mania**. On display through September 11.

**Swing in to Sciencenter Mini-Golf**

Golf your way through science fun at Sciencenter Mini-Golf. Explore exciting scientific principles with 18 thrilling science obstacles. Maneuver through the wave pendulum, escape from a black hole, experience Newton’s first law in action, and make sure to watch out for that tar pit!

Sciencenter Mini-Golf is fun for all ages and is wheelchair accessible with ADA approved clubs. Gather the whole family, or grab a group of friends, and play a round today.

Mini-Golf is $7 for players, $5 for members, and toddlers ages 0 – 3 are free with a paid adult. Mini-Golf pricing does not include nor does it require museum admission.

**Coming This Fall**

**From Here to There**

Lift, launch, and levitate while exploring how we move things on land, sea, and air at our fall featured exhibition, **From Here to There**.  
Discover the laws of gravity, experiment with pulleys and levers, float on a hovercraft chair, explore an authentic canal lock system, and much more! Opens September 17.