First 90 Days

by Dean Briere, Executive Director

I have spent the last several months engaged in a listening tour. I’ve met with staff, board, long-time supporters, parents, and many individuals who were in some shape or form, involved in building the Sciencenter. All this to help me better understand the organization and our surrounding community.

In my career, I have worked at many wonderful institutions—Discovery Place in Charlotte, NC; Challenger Center for Space Science Education in Alexandria, VA; North Carolina Museum of Life and Science; and most recently Arizona Science Center. Having worked at many different institutions, I can tell you, the Sciencenter is unique. It is the only museum in the nation that was built by the community, and that spirit shows in countless ways—in the donated windows and beams, the energy of its board and staff, and the strong relationships with the city, Cornell University, Ithaca College, and Tompkins Cortland Community College. Most importantly that spirit is expressed in the love we feel from the many families who visit us daily.

Just as the community has put their love and faith in us, we hope to return that goodwill by ensuring that all families have access to the Sciencenter. Through the Museums for All Program, we offer $1 admission for EBT card holders, our Membership Access Program offers free memberships to families who qualify for free and reduced price lunches, and we’re continuing our Sensory Hours for families with children on the autism spectrum.

This next year, the Sciencenter will continue to share its work with Head Start on a national level, leading a collaborative of six museums working with their local Head Starts on early childhood programming. We know how important it is to spark curiosity in young children very early in life, and we are tremendously excited to be sharing our work with other cities and towns across the nation.

To all of you who have afforded me your time in the past few months, I look forward to continuing our conversations. And I look forward to meeting even more of you as we work toward a big, bright future together.

Now on Display!

From digestion to indigestion, guests of all ages will love exploring the ins and outs of the strangest bodily functions at our featured exhibition, Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body. Discover why some people sneeze in the sunlight. Find out why feet get stinky. Traverse a giant wall of skin blemishes. Or discover how gas builds up in the small intestine. Investigate the good, bad, and downright ugly of body odor, upset stomachs, flatulance, and other unmentionables this summer at the Sciencenter!

Grossology is a collaboration between Science World, Advanced Exhibits, and Grossology author Sylvia Branzei. Grossology is a registered trademark of Penguin Group (USA), LLC.
National Collaboration: Head Start

The Sciencenter leads a collaborative of six museums, all of whom are working with their local Head Start programs to support science. Through a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Sciencenter launched the Collaborative for Early Science Learning (CESL) in 2015 with a goal to strengthen existing programs and provide tools so that more museums across the country can create programs and partnerships that improve early science learning.

The Collaborative currently shares best practices in teacher professional development and family engagement with the museum field to encourage and support more museums as they build partnerships with Head Start agencies in their own communities. To date, CESL has presented at six regional and national Head Start conferences reaching over 450 Head Start teachers and managers. We’ve also presented at two national conferences and hosted six webinars for museum professionals on partnering with Head Start, providing professional development in science for early childhood teachers, and on engaging families.

Head Start, a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides comprehensive early childhood education programs for children ages 0 – 5 and their families living at or below the poverty line. One of the key components of Head Start is involving parents in programming. According to the Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework, this increases “family well-being, parent-child relationships, families as lifelong educators, families as learners, family engagement in transition, family connections to peers and the local community, and families as advocates and leaders.”

The Sciencenter supports this component locally by hosting monthly after-hours family engagement events that match the themes children are exploring with their teachers in classrooms to reinforce classroom learning, and to complement teacher professional development workshops.

For more information, please contact Michelle Kortenaar at 607.272.0600 X 124.

NEW Education eNewsletter

Did you know that children begin processing the actions of the people around them as soon as they are born? Or that teenagers are more prone to absorb new information if the lesson is hands-on, open-ended, and contains a social aspect?

Explore More, the Sciencenter’s new quarterly Education eNewsletter is filled with excellent resources and current research about child development and how kids learn. In each issue, the Sciencenter’s Education team shares current findings and easy ways to implement science principles at home, such as creating a simple “Puff-Mobile” with everyday items to help foster strong collaboration skills in your elementary-aged child. Explore a new developmental concept each quarter!

Sign up to receive Explore More on our website at www.sciencenter.org.
Renew Your Membership for Summer

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

We recently added even more exhibits and experiences for you and your family to discover—no matter your age! Test your lung power in the new Scream Chamber, meet horseshoe crabs, sea stars, and other amazing ocean critters at our Tidepool Touch Tank, hone your engineering skills at Dam the Creek, crawl, climb and explore in the Curiosity Playground designed for our littlest scientists, and discover new ways that children learn in our new Family Learning Area.

Become a member or renew today to take advantage of these new experiences, in addition to your old favorites. 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 www.sciencenter.org today.

Thank You, Corporate Members!

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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

**Admission**
Members: Free
Kids under 2: Free
General (2 – 64): $8
Seniors (65+): $7
EBT Cardholders: $1

**Connect with us:**

**Special Summer Programs**

**Weekly Wonders**
Participate in hands-on activities led by our teen Future Science Leaders. A new activity each week!

**LIVE Demo: The Coolest Science**
Discover how different items react to the extreme temperatures of liquid nitrogen and dry ice.

Visit www.sciencenter.org for a complete listing of upcoming programs and events.

**New Exhibition Coming this Fall**

**Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China**
Come explore contemporary Chinese life and culture through the stories of four children in the city of Hangzhou. Learn how Chinese life today mixes ancient traditions with modern lifestyles through fully immersive exhibit spaces based on the real homes, schools, and activities of the children featured.

**Swing in to Sciencenter Mini-Golf**
Putt your way through science fun with a round of Sciencenter Mini-Golf. Explore exciting scientific principles through 18 thrilling obstacles.

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.

For current hours and admission prices, please visit our website.

Check out the new look of *Sciencenter Spectrum* in Fall 2017!