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Kentucky Science Center presents new & improved 2nd Floor Exhibit Experience *The World We Create, focused on STEM, gets an interactive facelift*

Louisville, KY (July 1, 2014) – Kentucky Science Center announced today their 2nd phase of work to complete an update of the *World We Create*, a 2nd floor exhibit experience geared towards exploring science technology, engineering and math (STEM), through collaborative and open-ended challenges. The project is expected to be complete by the end of this month, though new additions to the space have been ongoing since last fall. All new exhibit experiences in the *World We Create* are being designed to specifically support Next Generation Science Standards, a new set of K–12 science standards that are rich in content and practice and arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education.

The *World We Create* was opened in 1997 as the first phase of a comprehensive update to permanent exhibitions which continued to transform the Science Center over the next ten years. Science Center Board and staff have recognized the need to provide an experiential facelift while also directly aligning this physical and material sciences gallery with Next Generation Science Standards. Through available open-source designs, internal expertise and community partnerships, twelve new experiences will be on line by July 31, with five of those already operational.

The science and engineering themes of the *World We Create* are often requested by teachers and these new exhibits, along with several old favorites, support these content areas. Several cross cutting concepts will be showcased in these highly engaging exhibits including patterns, cause & effect, system models, energy & matter, and structure & function. Science and engineering concepts will also be featured, including:

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Building explanations and defining solutions

While teachers and educators from across the state are already taking advantage of this exhibit overhaul, families and visitors to the Science Center will also appreciate the enhancements. These interactive, hands-on exhibit experiences encourage family interaction and incorporate loose parts, creative experiments and the manipulation of different types of materials.

Of the 1st phase additions, a favorite has been a Bernoulli Ball experience where visitors can explore the properties of air pressure and weight with hands-on experiments. Another popular new experience has been *Pathways*, a massive magnetic wall where visitors can manipulate pipes and balls in order to experiment with gravity, kinetic energy and potential energy. Additionally, a build-your-own tops experience, two wind tubes that invite experimentation with floating and non-floating materials and *Skyline*, a hands-on experience where visitors can use nuts and bolts to imagine and create structures, have all served as thriving new exhibit experiences. Next up, visitors will be able to manipulate lasers, lights, mirrors, air, rockets and other building materials.

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The *World We Create* exhibit gallery is included with the price of admission to the Science Center and open to the public while ongoing improvements take place. General admission to the Science Center is \$11 for children ages 2-12 and \$13 for adults. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit KYScienceCenter.org.

About the Kentucky Science Center (KYScienceCenter.org)

Kentucky Science Center is a nonprofit educational institution that encourages people of all ages to enjoy science, mathematics and technology in a stimulating and engaging environment that is educational as well as entertaining. Designated the “State Science Center of Kentucky” by the 2002 Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Science Center features interactive exhibits and engaging programs for children, families and adults. Kentucky Science Center is committed to growing a scientifically literate community that investigates, questions, and challenges.

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