



One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

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CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER NAMES DIRECTOR OF BUHL PLANETARIUM

BRENDAN MULLAN HAS EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION, PLANETARY STUDIES

PITTSBURGH, July 3, 2014 — Carnegie Science Center is pleased to announce that Brendan Mullan has joined its staff as Director of Buhl Planetarium & Observatory.

Mullan will oversee the planetarium and observatory, including running its day-to-day operations and developing exciting educational experiences.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y, Mullan holds a PhD in astronomy and astrophysics from the Pennsylvania State University, where he designed and conducted a wide variety of outreach programming in astronomy and astrobiology for all age groups. At Penn State, he led science camps, directed planetarium shows, and helped to develop the first video game-based Web course for the university. Mullan earned a master's degree in astronomy from Penn State and an undergraduate physics degree at Colgate University.

Mullan was named in 2013 a National Geographic Emerging Explorer. Through the program, he traveled the nation speaking to schools about inquiry-based thinking and advising teachers about science communication. Mullan was named the 2012 national champion for the NASA FameLab science communication program. FameLab is a speech competition founded on the principle that the ability to convey science can reshape the face of discovery. In his winning speech, Mullan speculated on the question "Why are there no aliens on Earth?"

"I want to inspire the next generation of scientific thinkers," Mullan said. "I hope to engage students with that spark of excitement inherent to the planetarium experience – not just encouraging those who want to be astronomers, but everyone who will use science thinking to build the foundations of the 21st Century."

Himself inspired by museums as a child, Mullan values the Science Center's rich history and the nostalgia visitors associate with Buhl Planetarium. Buhl Planetarium was established in 1939, as the nation's fifth planetarium, and evolved into Carnegie Science Center in 1991. Carnegie Science Center will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Buhl Planetarium this fall.

“This isn’t my planetarium,” he said. “It’s the city of Pittsburgh’s planetarium.”

For more about the Science Center and its programs, visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org or call 412.237.3400.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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