

**Scientists/Engineers in Residence Program**  
**Liberty Science Center**  
**December 4, 2006**

The Jennifer A. Chalsty Center for Science Learning and Teaching at Liberty Science Center will be home to many exciting new endeavors. One of the activities that the Jennifer Chalsty Center will afford is to accommodate real scientists and engineers within the facility. As a science education institution, it is important that Liberty Science Center keep a finger on the pulse of current advances in science and technology. It is also vital that efforts be made to connect staff, students, teachers, and guests with a diverse array of real scientists and engineers in a variety of disciplines. The *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program will bring the faces of science to Liberty Science Center and forge connections between our institution and science in the real world.

Individuals participating in the *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program may come from a number of different sources. Some participants may be retired scientists looking to stay active and use their expertise to connect with the public around science. Other individuals may be on sabbatical from research positions in higher education or on loan from corporations in the private sector. Scientists or engineers may also become involved in the program through a variety of grant-funded initiatives. Participating scientists/engineers will represent a wide variety of scientific, mathematic and technological disciplines. It will also be critical to recruit scientists/engineers from typically underrepresented groups in science, such as women and individuals of color. This will provide students, teachers and guests with much needed exposure to a diversity of individuals in the field today.

The *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program will provide scientists and Liberty Science Center with a wide array of mutually beneficial experiences. The selection of scientists/engineers and decisions regarding their activities will represent a marriage of both needs of the scientists/engineers and the needs of the institution. The Jennifer Chalsty Center's state-of-the-art labs will make it possible for scientists and engineers to engage in onsite research. Some of the scientists/engineers may use the space to continue ongoing research or to begin work on new projects. The Jennifer Chalsty Center could also serve as a venue for scientists and engineers to showcase new, ongoing, or completed research in their discipline.

Individuals participating in the *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program will also have opportunities to contribute their expertise and provide professional development to Liberty Science Center staff. Participating individuals may work side by side with staff members on a variety of different initiatives. Scientists and engineers may consult with the Exhibitions department on the science content of future exhibitions. They may also work with Teacher Programs to develop stimulating new Teacher Impact Workshops or Teacher Summer Institutes. Scientists may also collaborate with Developers, Coordinators, and Science Educators to develop and implement engaging science-rich educational programming on a host of fundamental and cutting edge topics.

Scientists and engineers may not always have the opportunity to share their knowledge and passion with others in their professional roles. The *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program will provide them with opportunities to share their expertise and love of science with fresh young minds. The Jennifer Chalsty Center is a venue where scientists/engineers can use their knowledge to develop and implement exciting new science programming for students. Scientists and engineers could also provide mentorship to students who are conducting research in programs such as the Center's *Partners in Science* program. The scientists and engineers would model the investigative process as it is explored through their various science disciplines. The experience of connecting with a real scientist or engineer would provide students with valuable skills which could be transferred to the classroom or to community learning projects centering on applied science. Working with real scientists and engineers may also help plant the seeds of science as a future career for students.

Individuals participating in the *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program would also have the opportunity to connect with teachers and the general public and assist them in understanding important issues in science. Participating scientists/engineers could help deliver workshops related to their expertise to teachers. They would also have opportunities to engage in stimulating conversations with Liberty Science Center guests in the Jennifer Chalsty Center and on the exhibit floors. Scientists/engineers could also deliver lectures for special groups or the community-at-large in the Jennifer Chalsty Center Forum.

The *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program would utilize the resources of the Jennifer Chalsty Center as means of connecting the institution with real scientists in new and innovative ways. The possibilities for how we incorporate these scientists and engineers into our work are limitless. The *Scientists/Engineers in Residence* program has the potential to add tremendous value to our mission and provide meaningful science education experiences to the diverse audiences that Liberty Science Center serves.