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ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FACILITIES

PHOENIX, AZ (March 16, 2020) – From the desk of Chevy Humphrey, The Hazel A. Hare President and CEO of Arizona Science Center:

The health and safety of our guests, our team, and our community is the primary concern of Arizona Science Center. **Beginning Tuesday, March 17, we will suspend all operations, public outreach services, and public events, due to public health concerns about COVID-19.** After close of business on Monday, March 16, the Arizona Science Center and CREATE buildings will be temporarily CLOSED to the public. We expect to re-open on Monday, April 6 but will reassess and communicate our plans by email, on our website (www.azscience.org) and through social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)).

We are a science learning institution that exists to inspire our community to embrace science. Right now, as we all work to curtail the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we are following the science closely. The science tells us that the best course of action for the Science Center is to follow social distancing guidelines. From our conversations with international, national, and local science and health authorities, we understand that the information indicates that reducing social transmission is the best way to mitigate the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

Our driving mission and instinct is to talk about science and everything that our society can learn from it in the unique and powerful venue from which we operate. At the same time, we are unwavering in our resolve to do what's in the best interest of our community, which is situated among some of the largest population centers, and where health experts are predicting more widespread transmission. The Centers for Disease Control recommends minimizing events with 50 or more people, a number that represents many fewer visitors than a routine day at Arizona Science Center.

We will be innovating relentlessly to deliver on our mission, no matter what, and to make the Science Center better than ever when the doors re-open. We will use this suspension of our public services to play a responsible community role in social distancing. During this time, we will continue our role as a science leader in this community. We will learn and share the science and everything that our society can learn from it. In a time that is scary and uncertain for many in our community, we will seek to be a source of accurate information that can help save lives.

In an effort to be of continual service to our community, today we launched a series of digital videos and content called **Piece of Mind**. Through this effort, Arizona Science Center is creating, collecting and sharing resources on this channel to guide you through this unprecedented journey.

Furthermore, we will prepare the Science Center to serve our community face-to-face in the best way possible upon re-opening. During the weeks that Science Center operations are paused, we will conduct a deep cleaning of the entire Science Center, including team member offices. We will train employees—in a manner that practices social distancing methods—on the science of the virus and its implications. And we will make a thoughtful plan to stage and restore services.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves, even as you take care of others. As we all work to contain this outbreak, the Science Center extends special appreciation to those in health care, medicine, research and other fields bravely leading the frontline response.

ABOUT ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

The mission of Arizona Science Center is to inspire, educate and engage curious minds through science. The Center, located at 600 E. Washington Street in downtown Phoenix, features more than 300 hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, the state-of-the-art Dorrance Planetarium and the five-story Irene P. Flinn Giant Screen Theater, CREATE at Arizona Science Center®, adjacent to the main building, is the newest addition. This 6,500 square-foot community makerspace provides workshops, including 3D printing, laser cutting, woodworking and sewing. The Center offers programs for all ages, including Camp Innovation, Teen Science Scene, Professional Development and Learning for Educators, and adults' night out: Science With A Twist. For further details, please visit azscience.org.

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