Da Vinci Science Center Announces New Downtown Allentown Facility is Full STEAM Ahead

By Caroline Scutt

ALLENTOWN, PA.— The Da Vinci Science Center is poised for the next phase of development of the new state-of-the-art facility that will be a major draw for downtown Allentown. During a virtual update, Science Center Executive Director and CEO Lin Erickson unveiled photorealistic renderings of the facility and exhibits, announced that PPL Corporation would be the title sponsor of the new building, and officially launched the fundraising campaign of $72 million. Current plans call for ground breaking in spring 2022, with the new facility to open in spring 2024.

"We are reimagining what a science center, and STEAM education will look like," said Erickson who was at the helm of the organization from 1997-2005 and returned in 2013 to lead the Science Center through its next transformation. "The new Da Vinci Science Center will be a Regional Center of Excellence for STEAM Education, serving as a community hub and conduit to STEM careers, while inspiring curiosity in visitors of all ages through immersive experiences. With strong public support and PPL as the title sponsor, this project is full STEAM ahead," she added.

Erickson unveiled renderings of the new 67,000-square-foot facility with the name Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion prominently featured on the exterior at the Hamilton Blvd. and Eighth St. entrances.

"Inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's way of thinking, this world-class science center will ensure that our region can continue to thrive, said Vincent Sorgi, President and CEO of PPL Corporation. "One of the benefits of locating the new Science Center in Downtown Allentown is that it is within walking distance of thousands of students who live nearby. And PPL's involvement demonstrates our strong commitment to supporting equitable, engaging, high-quality educational opportunities for all students and helping to prepare the next generation of STEM workers," he added.