WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Noyce Foundation, in collaboration with the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced a fourth round of sponsored fellowships with the aim of increasing public impact of science centers in the 21st century. The Noyce Leadership Institute (NLI) brings together leaders of science centers and related institutions to act as change agents at the crossroads of societal trends, global issues, and the cutting edge of informal science.

This year’s program will focus on senior level managers. “NLI aims to increase the capacity of individuals to lead these dynamic organizations,” said Dr. Geno Schnell, NLI program director. “We’re excited about the potential of working with this next generation of leaders to increase the level of innovation and community impact at their home institutions and in the science center field as a whole.”

Through their Fellowship experience, 18 leaders from science centers, children’s museums, natural history museums, and related institutions will gain access to knowledge, tools, best practices, and professional networks that increase their capacity to lead effectively and to advance innovation in their own institutions and the broader community. NLI envisions an essential and transformative role for science centers in the engagement of citizens of every age in understanding crucial science-related issues. Leaders of such innovative hubs will be supported and challenged by the Noyce Leadership Institute to make the individual, organizational, and community changes required to realize this vision.

The 2011–2012 Noyce Leadership Fellows each completed a rigorous application process and were selected by a cadre of senior professionals from the fields of science centers and executive education. The Fellowship program provides a mix of face-to-face sessions, coaching, peer learning, audio conferencing, and other learning strategies over a year, followed by ongoing Fellow alumni activities.

The 18 Noyce Fellows and their Strategic Initiative Sponsors are:

At-Bristol, England, United Kingdom
Fellow: Dan Bird, exhibitions director
Sponsor: Goéry Delacôte, CEO

Boston Children’s Museum, Massachusetts
Fellow: Gail Ringel, vice president, exhibits and production
Sponsor: Carole Charnow, president

California Science Center, Los Angeles
Fellow: Diane Perlov, senior vice president for exhibits
Sponsor: Jeffrey Rudolph, president
Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario
Fellow: Stacy Wakeford, director, exhibitions
Sponsor: Denise Amyot, president and CEO

Detroit Zoological Society, Michigan
Fellow: Scott Carter, chief life sciences officer
Sponsor: Ron Kagan, executive director and CEO

Exploratorium, San Francisco
Fellow: Tom Rockwell, director of exhibits
Sponsor: Rob Semper, executive associate director

Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware
Fellow: Joan Hoge-North, deputy director for museum administration
Sponsor: Geoff Halfpenny, executive director

Miami Science Museum, Florida
Fellow: Sean Duran, vice president, exhibition and design
Sponsor: Gillian Thomas, CEO

Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich, Vermont
Fellow: Greg DeFrancis, director of education
Sponsor: David Goudy, executive director

Museum of Science, Boston, Massachusetts
Fellow: Andrea Durham, director, exhibit development and conservation
Co-Sponsor: Paul Fontaine, vice president, education
Co-Sponsor: Anne Cademenos, director of corporate, foundation, and government relations

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Fellow: Shari Werb, director of education and outreach
Co-Sponsor: Cristián Samper, director
Co-Sponsor: Claudine Brown, assistant secretary for education and access

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California
Fellow: Karen Wise, vice president, education and exhibitions
Sponsor: Jane Pisano, president and director

Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom
Fellow: Johannes Vogel, keeper of botany
Sponsor: Sharon Ament, director of public engagement

Omaha Children’s Museum, Nebraska
Fellow: Jeff Barnhart, chief museum officer
Sponsor: Lindy Hoyer, executive director

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Portland
Fellow: Marcie Benne, evaluation and visitor studies manager
Sponsor: Ray Vandiver, vice president, Center for Learning Experiences

Science Center NEMO, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Fellow: Amito Haarhuis, manager, Science Learning Center
Sponsor: Michiel Buchel, general manager/director

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The Institute bears the name of Robert Noyce, co-founder of Intel and inventor of the integrated circuit. His work in leading science, engineering, and technology to a whole new level of innovation—as well as the creation of new industries—is legendary. Known for his integrity, authenticity, character, inclusiveness, and continuous innovation, his legacy continues to serve as a standard for leaders today.

ASTC is a nonprofit organization of science centers and museums dedicated to furthering the public engagement with science among increasingly diverse audiences. ASTC works with science centers and museums to address critical societal issues, locally and globally, where understanding of and engagement with science are essential. In addition, ASTC provides professional development for the science center field, promotes best practices, supports effective communication, strengthens the position of science centers within the community at large, and fosters the creation of successful partnerships and collaborations.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.

Primary funding for the Noyce Leadership Institute comes from the Noyce Foundation, with additional support to date from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.

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