GET READY “TO FLY!” - THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY & SCIENCE OPENS AVIATION AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY MAKERSPACE TO INSPIRE INNOVATION

Fort Lauderdale, FL (September 17, 2019) – The Museum of Discovery & Science (MODS) is about to take flight to a whole new height. The popular To Fly Aviation Exhibit Hall, sponsored by the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust, has been expanded and now features The Leighton Family Hangar, an innovative, aviation-themed, high tech makerspace. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 4, at 10:30 a.m.

The only one of its kind in Broward County, The Hangar is a permanent makerspace that fosters the development of new skills, where visitors are encouraged to roll up their sleeves and tinker. It is a fusion of a science lab, engineering workshop, innovation workshop, and art room; and is designed to be flexible and accommodate a wide range of collaborative activities, from robotics and electronics to sewing and 3D printing. Daily creation and innovation in The Hangar are fueled and sponsored by Citrix, the official technology partner of MODS.

What differentiates a makerspace from a traditional exhibit is that individuals and groups alike enter not only to observe technology, but to master it. Users have all the tools and materials on hand to turn their ideas into reality. This hands-on approach to learning helps with critical thinking, promotes risk-taking and boosts self-confidence.

“The Makerspace was born out of the idea to embrace tomorrow’s ingenuity today by connecting people to inspiring science,” explains Joe Cox, president & CEO of MODS. “Aviation and high tech are critical industries in south Florida, so it was important for us to help prepare our future workforce by offering opportunities for them to develop skills and problem-solve.”

In fact, MODS is one of very few science museums with a designated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Center in the country with dedicated STEM educators on staff. The STEM Center at MODS offers a myriad of specialized formal and informal learning opportunities to advance knowledge in STEM subjects through informal and hands-on inquiry-based learning.

Aviation also has been an education pillar of MODS since it opened at its current site in 1992. The $1.5 million expansion, which brings the total exhibit space to more than 8,000 square feet, makes To Fly the largest area within the Museum. Now part of To Fly is Inspiration Takes Flight 7D film by Emmy award winning producers MacGillivray Freeman. Filmed locally with support from Underground Lauderdale, a project of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the immersive viewing experience combines 3D imagery with sensory experiences such as water spray, bubbles, mist and a motion effect simulator in the seats. Among the other new aviation programs and exhibits are Air Wall, a maze that shoots scarves through intertwining tubes and then floats them softly back to the ground; Airplane Launcher, where, after building their own airplane, pilots test that all systems are a go on a devoted runway featuring motorized launching devices; and Bernoulli Lab, an aerodynamic act of balancing balls and scarves over streams of compressed air in different shapes.

The Hangar is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is accessible with a general Museum admission. The Makerspace also will be available for school field
trip experiences, individual and group visits, as well as private events such as birthday parties, team building and special events.

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**ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY & SCIENCE (MODS):**
The mission of MODS is to provide experiential pathways to lifelong learning in science for children and adults through exhibits, programs and films. Founded in 1976 as The Discovery Center, the nonprofit facility serves approximately 400,000 visitors annually. Major operational support for the Museum is provided through generous support by Leadership Guild members including Citrix, JetBlue, JM Family Enterprises, Inc. and Wells Fargo.

MODS is open every day of the year including Thanksgiving and Christmas except for one-day in the fall for its annual Gala on October 26, 2019, and one-day in the spring for its annual Wine, Spirits and Culinary Celebration on March 13, 2020. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, visitors should call 954.467.MODS (6637) or visit [mods.org](http://www.mods.org).

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**ABOUT THE EMIL BUEHLER PERPETUAL TRUST:**
The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust was established in 1984 to honor Emil Buehler, an aviation visionary, architect, and engineer. The majesty and mystery of flight was more than a private interest; it was a vision to be shared during his lifetime and beyond. The Buehler Trust provides funding to institutions, organizations, and foundations that carry forward the research and development of new and improved aircraft and promote the field of aviation science and technology.

**ABOUT CITRIX:**
Citrix (NASDAQ:CTXS) is powering a better way to work with unified workspace, networking, and analytics solutions that help organizations unlock innovation, engage customers, and boost productivity, without sacrificing security. With Citrix, users get a seamless work experience and IT has a unified platform to secure, manage, and monitor diverse technologies in complex cloud environments. Citrix solutions are in use by more than 400,000 organizations including 99 percent of the Fortune 100 and 98 percent of the Fortune 500. For fiscal year 2018, Citrix reported annual revenue of $2.97 billion. For more information, please visit [citrix.com](http://www.citrix.com).

**ABOUT THE LEIGHTON FAMILY AND CRS JET SPARES:**
From the start in 1982 by Armando Leighton Jr., CRS Jet Spares, an aftermarket aviation parts solution provider, goal has been direct and simple – to continually improve our business and go that extra mile for each and every customer. The pursuit to maintain a high level of service never stops with our valued employees and support of our mission. In those early days, the company was providing business jet customers cost-effective, quality alternatives to OEM spares and rotatable parts. Today, CRS Jet Spares has transitioned into Global leader clearly positioned as the preferred supplier within the aviation community. Today, the Leighton family recognized Armando’s legacy through the companies mission, vision and philanthropic community support. For more information, please visit [crsjetspares.com](http://crsjetspares.com).
ABOUT THE GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU:
Created by the Board of Broward County Commissioners in 1987, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau (GFLCVB) is a governmental agency funded by a portion of the tax on hotel rooms. The staff of the GFLCVB promote the Greater Fort Lauderdale area as a premier year-round leisure and meeting destination. Visit sunny.org.

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