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## **Discover a world too small to see on NanoDay at the Delaware Museum of Natural History**

WILMINGTON – The Delaware Museum of Natural History celebrates the science of small at **NanoDay** on **Saturday, April 11, 2015** from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Family-friendly activities illustrate the world at the nanoscale, making this new field of science accessible and fun.

Visitors can:

- Discover more about molecules from scented balloons.
- Marvel at the nanoscale connection between robots and people.
- Explore nano found in nature and technology.
- Measure their height in billions of nanometers.
- Witness the science of spinning from the First State Ballet Theatre.

“Nano” is the scientific term for one-billionth, from the Greek word meaning “dwarf.” Nanoscale refers to measurements of 1 – 100 nanometers, where many common materials exhibit unusual properties such as lower resistance to electricity or faster chemical reactions.

NanoDay at the Delaware Museum of Natural History is part of a nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering supported by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net). This community-based event takes place nationally from March 28 – April 5, 2015 and is the largest public outreach effort in nanoscale informal science education involving science museums, research centers, and universities from Puerto Rico to Alaska.

NanoDays celebrations bring university researchers together with science educators to create learning experiences for both children and adults to explore the miniscule world of atoms, molecules, and nanoscale forces. Most NanoDays events combine fun hands-on activities with presentations on current research. A range of exciting NanoDays programs demonstrate the special and unexpected properties found at the nanoscale, examine tools used by nanoscientists, showcase nano materials with spectacular promise, and invite discussion of technology and society.

**WHAT:** NanoDay, a special event exploring the science of small with hands-on activities for families.

**WHERE:** Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807

**DATE:** Saturday, April 11, 2015

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**ADMISSION:** \$9 for adults, \$7 for children (3-17), \$8 for seniors, FREE for children 2 and younger. FREE for Museum members.

**MORE INFO:** Visit [www.delmnh.org](http://www.delmnh.org) or call (302) 658-9111.

### **About the Delaware Museum of Natural History**

As the state's only natural history museum, the Delaware Museum of Natural History opened in 1972 to excite and inform people about the natural world through exploration and discovery. The museum houses Delaware's only permanent dinosaur display, surrounded by exhibits of mammals, shells, and other specimens from around the world. The museum manages world-renowned scientific collections of mollusks and birds, including one of the top-ten mollusk collections in the United States.

### **About Nano and NISE Network**

Many scientists and engineers believe that advances in nanotechnology have the potential to bolster the U.S. economy through innovations providing clean, secure, affordable energy, techniques to clean up hazardous chemicals in the environment, and medical devices and drugs to detect and treat diseases more effectively and with fewer side effects. Despite this promise, the public knows little about research and development being carried out today by 25 departments and agencies of the federal government and by universities and corporations in their own communities.

Originally launched by the Museum of Science in Boston, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and San Francisco's Exploratorium, the NISE Network is now led by 14 museums and universities across the nation. In 2005, an initial grant funded formation of NISE Network to collaboratively develop and distribute innovative approaches to engaging Americans in nanoscale science and engineering. The NISE Network has won its second five-year \$21 million grant from the National Science Foundation allowing partners to continue the work of the NISE Net into the next decade.

Through activities like NanoDays, the NISE Network is actively building partnerships between science museums and research centers to increase their capacity to engage the public in learning about nanoscale science and engineering. In addition to the individual museums and research centers, two major professional organizations—the Materials Research Society and the Association of Science-Technology Centers—support the NISE Network and annual NanoDays activities. For more information about Nano please visit <http://www.whatisnano.org>

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