



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER PRESIDENT AND CEO BERT VESCOLANI TO STEP DOWN

Twenty Five-Year Nonprofit Veteran to Become New president and CEO of Denver Zoo

St. Louis, Mo. (August 10, 2018) – The Board of Commissioners of the Saint Louis Science Center announced today that Bert Vescolani, current President and CEO of the organization, will be stepping down to become the new president & CEO of Denver Zoo. Vescolani leaves following seven years of successfully leading the organization through many significant and positive changes.

Under Vescolani’s leadership, the Science Center has undergone significant fundraising efforts focused on capital projects. Accomplishments during his tenure have included nearly doubling the square footage of exhibits including the new GROW outdoor agricultural exhibit. Additionally, the organization has made critical infrastructure investments and improved financial stability.

In addition to improvements made to the infrastructure of the Science Center, the organization was named a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate, which led to the selection of the organization to be one of only four nationally to host *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*, the widely-visited special exhibition currently at the Science Center through September 3.

In accepting the position at Denver Zoo, Vescolani returns to his roots in zoo and aquarium leadership. Prior to joining the Science Center, he served as director of the John Ball Zoological Gardens in Grand Rapids, Mich., and in various capacities at John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

“Leaving the Saint Louis Science Center is bittersweet. The staff and boards have worked tirelessly together to grow and expand our facilities and programs as we continue to ignite and sustain lifelong science and technology learning,” said Vescolani. “My family and I have made St. Louis home for the last seven years and I plan to remain a part of the regional community.”

“Bert has provided the Saint Louis Science Center with strong executive leadership, as well as energy and enthusiasm,” said Juan Ferreira, Chair of the Saint Louis Science Center Board of Commissioners. “We deeply appreciate the years that Bert has invested in the organization and the strength of the team he is leaving behind. He has improved the organization in many ways, making it very attractive for an incoming CEO as an organization with a proven track record as a world class institution and the potential for even more growth.”

Vescolani will be at the Science Center through the end of August, and will be available for help with transition through mid-September when he begins his tenure at Denver Zoo. Succeeding Vescolani as Interim President and CEO is Barbara Boyle, current Chief Operating and Financial Officer at the Science Center. Boyle has been with the Science Center since 2010 and has overseen transformational changes in the organization’s financial and operational management. Boyle will have the full support of the Boards of Commissioners and Trustees as well as the Executive and Management Teams when she assumes the role on September 1. A national search for a new president and CEO will be conducted by board leadership and other community leaders.

Saint Louis Science Center

The mission of the Saint Louis Science Center is to ignite and sustain lifelong science and technology learning. Named a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate in 2016, the Saint Louis Science Center features more than 700 interactive exhibits, as well as a five-story OMNIMAX® Theater, Boeing Hall and the James S. McDonnell Planetarium. For more information about the Saint Louis Science Center, please visit slsc.org.