In 2006 the Leonard Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach was dedicated, the mission being to develop and strengthen university-community partnerships with a focus on K-12 STEM programs. The Center was made possible by a gift from CMU alumnus, Mark Gelfand, MCS ’73, pictured below with his uncle and the Center’s namesake, Leonard Gelfand.

In 2007, the Leonard Gelfand Center assumed responsibility for interactions with the Pennsylvania Department of Education related to Act 48 Continuing Professional Education for Teachers in non-credit programs conducted at Carnegie Mellon. The Center maintains the university’s approval status with the state.

To replace an aging passenger van, the Leonard Gelfand Center purchased a new 25-passenger bus. This enabled the Leonard Gelfand Center and CMU to have a greater reach in the Pittsburgh area. Students, faculty and staff used the bus at no cost for K-12 outreach and service related events and activities.

The Leonard Gelfand Center supports activities that enable Carnegie Mellon students, faculty and staff to use their energy and expertise to improve the quality of life, motivate learners of all ages, and solve problems in the community. We facilitate partnership development with individuals, school districts and organizations in Pennsylvania and beyond to design and implement programs and service learning course activities. STEM education outreach programs are our priority.

CMU students present with the Leonard Gelfand Center at the Carnegie Science Center during SciTech Days.
Teachers from Western PA and beyond attend Leonard Gelfand Center workshops to expand their content knowledge and to learn about cutting edge research conducted at Carnegie Mellon. These mutually beneficial interactions assist teachers who share up-to-date information and implement new activities in the classroom, enhancing the educational experiences of their K-12 students. CMU faculty develop effective broader impacts strategies for NSF proposals using information about curriculum connections suggested by the teachers.

*Carnegie Mellon students plan and implement one-time and multi-session educational workshops with the help of the Leonard Gelfand Center. These experiences provide academically enriching programs for K-12 students while supporting the personal and professional growth of the CMU students.*

*Right: Teachers participate in a Materials Science workshop presented by Dr. Lisa Porter’s Lab.*

*Carnegie Mellon students plan and implement one-time and multi-session educational workshops with the help of the Leonard Gelfand Center. These experiences provide academically enriching programs for K-12 students while supporting the personal and professional growth of the CMU students.*

*Left: CMU student leaders from the Road to Science series pause for a photo.*

The Leonard Gelfand Center supports the university through work which includes maintaining partnerships with external groups, assisting with broader impacts strategies to enhance proposal competitiveness, and expanding opportunities for CMU students to gain practical experience through service and outreach activities.

I am inspired by the CMU faculty, students and staff who dedicate time and expertise to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals in the community. The Leonard Gelfand Center is proud to partner with you as you carry out this important work!
Leonard Gelfand Center by the numbers...

- Annually since 2007, **over 4,000** Act 48 hours have been processed for PA educators
- **Over 3,300** Criminal, Child Abuse, and FBI Clearances* have been requested through the Leonard Gelfand Center to certify individuals to work with children
- **9 faculty members** have received the annual Mark Gelfand Award for Educational Outreach
- **21 students** have been recipients of the Gelfand Student Service Award since 2010
- Approximately **30,000 miles** have been driven by Leonard Gelfand Center buses over the past 10 years in an effort to transport CMU students, faculty and staff to conduct educational outreach and service learning in the community
- Since its inception in January of 2015 to the fall of 2016, Gelfand Outreach programs have served **1076 students** in the community with **97 CMU faculty members, staff and students** presenting **80 classes and workshops**
- Leonard Gelfand Center initiatives have impacted **over 40,000 people** through community events, hands-on activities and school visits since 2006

*Prior to 2015, clearances required by PA Act153 for CMU students, faculty and staff were requested by the Leonard Gelfand Center.

President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Carnegie Mellon faculty, staff and students participate in numerous educational outreach and service activities that benefit individuals and organizations outside of the university. The Leonard Gelfand Center compiles data and submits the university's annual application to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. CMU has been recognized on the Honor Roll annually since 2007. We are proud to be at an institution where each year, students contribute more than 210,000 hours to the community through service learning courses, student service organizations and other volunteer activities!

Dr. Judith Hallinen chaired the the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Local Arrangements Committee. The Gelfand Center coordinated campus tours for participants, conducted a hands-on exhibit in the ISEF Expo and presented the first Leonard Gelfand Center sponsored awards to ISEF finalists.

Leon “Pete” Smith and William Taylor, bus drivers for the Leonard Gelfand Center were recipients of the 2014 CMU Andy Award for Community Contributions.

The Leonard Gelfand Center hosted Educator Professional Development programs including: Green Communications, Statics and the long-running What is Research? program. Undergraduate members of the Society of Women Engineers shared information about engineering with high school teachers.
Focused on sharing information about Carnegie Mellon research with a wide-ranging K-12 audience and building on decades of successful programs such as Bridges, C-MITES and Road to Research, Gelfand Outreach (GO) programs began in January of 2015. GO offers dozens of Saturday STEM workshops each fall and spring along with week-long classes in the summer!

2015

GELFAND OUTREACH

The staff of the Leonard Gelfand Center looks forward to supporting the campus community for years to come!

2016 and Beyond!

Special thanks to donors that have supported our efforts over the years including...

Mark Gelfand, MCS ’73
Bernard Meisner, MCS ’71
Paul Walker and Family
Paul Kelly (CIT ’77) and James Kelly
Siemens Foundation
Alumni Donors
Anonymous Donors
and Many More!

CMU Faculty Member Dr. Jack Beuth and graduate students in his Additive Manufacturing lab have conducted several Leonard Gelfand Center workshops for both educators and children.

A CMU student instructs the hands-on Gelfand Outreach class, “Why Things Fall Down”.

A Leonard Gelfand Center tutor interacts with students during an in-class lesson at Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy.

Anonymous Donors