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Contact: Anne Holland

(720)974-5876

aholland@spacescience.org

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING** receives \$1.25 million in funding for *Discover Health/Descubre la Salud: A Bilingual Healthy Living Program for Colorado Libraries and their Communities*

Boulder, CO – July 18, 2014 – The Space Science Institute’s (SSI) National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL), in collaboration with the University of Colorado’s Area Health Education Centers (Colorado AHECs), announced today that it has received a 5-year \$1.25 million grant for *Discover Health/Descubre la Salud*. This project is funded by a grant from the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). *Discover Health* addresses the nation’s most serious public health issues, especially among underserved and rural populations (diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular health). It also encourages youth, especially those from at-risk communities to pursue careers in health care professions. The project engages students, families, and adults in these important health issues by using a strategic combination of interactive exhibits and activities presented at public libraries, community health festivals, and career events.

*Discover Health* is part of NCIL's STAR Library Education Network (STAR\_Net) where STAR stands for **S**cience-**T**echnology **A**ctivities and **R**esources. STAR\_Net is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other sources including foundations and corporations. Core project partners include the American Library Association and the Lunar and Planetary Institute. Other partners include the Afterschool Alliance, National Academy of Engineering, Engineers Without Borders-USA, IEEE-USA, the National Renewable Energy Lab, American Geophysical Union, and many more. The project developed two interactive traveling exhibits hosted by 19 libraries (*Discover Earth: A Century of Change* and *Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference*), coupled with a variety of education and outreach programs. This additional programming included hands-on activities, a training program for librarians, and an online learning community ([www.community.starnetlibraries.org](http://www.community.starnetlibraries.org)) of librarians and STEM professionals (currently, over 500 members). To date 412,000 patrons have visited the exhibits and 34,000 (including 18,000 children) have participated in over 270 programs. Visit [www.STARnetLibraries.org](http://www.STARnetLibraries.org) for more information.

The Project Director (Dr. Paul Dusenbery) said that “The *Discover Health* exhibition will help host libraries become centers of informal learning about health and will enhance community engagement through strategic partnerships between community members, educators, and health professionals. We hope the whole community will visit the exhibit and participate in the programs host libraries will offer.” *Discover Health* enables libraries to directly impact their underserved communities through active and healthy living programs. The effect generated by *Discover Health* will extend well beyond the duration of the exhibition to influence and inspire lifelong learning opportunities, as well as proactive lifestyle changes.

The **National Center for Interactive Learning** (NCIL) is dedicated to expanding the understanding and participation of families, youth, educators, and citizens in science and technology through innovative programs and learning research. NCIL programs span a range of audience needs and delivery methods, including traveling museum exhibitions (e.g., *Giant Worlds: A Journey to the Outer Solar System* and *Great Balls of Fire: Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors*) and library exhibitions (e.g. *Discover Earth* and *Discover Health*); award-winning educational films (e.g., *Are We Alone?*), videos, and websites; hands-on teaching resources and activities; and educator workshops and webinars. Visit [www.nc4il.org](http://www.nc4il.org) for more information.

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Space Science Institute  
4750 Walnut St, Suite 205  
Boulder, CO 80301  
[www.spacescience.org](http://www.spacescience.org)

