



For Immediate Release

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PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED

Press Photographs attached

Everhart's New Initiative Brings Free Museum Experiences to Area Students

SCRANTON, PA. (March 18, 2019) – As a cornerstone of the community the Everhart Museum takes seriously its missions to inspire and stimulate curiosity. The Museum does this by providing a distinctive and meaningful experience for all visitors. Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and corporate funders the Everhart will be able to offer free programming and transportation to a growing number of schools and students.

An Everhart Museum experience provides students with an exciting opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of science, literature, and visual and performing arts. The year-round classes, assembly programs, and workshops are designed for each student to achieve success and personal growth while fusing the arts and science into the school curriculum.

The reality for many children and teens in Northeastern Pennsylvania is that the Everhart could potentially be one of a few or the only museum they ever experience. In an effort to ensure there is no financial barrier for schools to bring students to the Everhart, the Museum participates in Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program and established its own transportation fundraising initiative in 2018 named \$110 for the Everhart's 110th.

Area businesses and long-time Everhart supporters, Lackawanna Insurance Group and Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc., participate in EITC and have been the leading funders in our EITC programming having recently contributed \$50,000, and close to a quarter of a million dollars over the last decade.

"EITC is beneficial to the businesses, but more importantly it supports key educational programs throughout the region with a sustainable level of

funding," said Mark DeStefano, Chief Financial Officer of Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. and a Director of Lackawanna Insurance Group.

"On a recent visit to the Everhart Museum, I was able to witness these dollars in action. As the children were touring through the Everhart, you could see how engaged they were. It was truly heartwarming just seeing their smiles and hearing their laughter during the workshops," said Michelene Pagnotti, President of Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. and Chairman of Lackawanna Insurance Group.

EITC funding allows the Museum to extend free fieldtrips and assembly programs to area schools, and the Everhart's \$110 for the 110th fundraising initiative provides transportation to the Museum. Free transportation and programming is available to teachers and schools in Lackawanna and surrounding counties on a first-come first-served basis. More information on how to sign up can be found here: <http://wp.me/P4ipOn-21>

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MEDIA CONTACT: For further information please contact: Aurore Giguet by emailing executive.director@everhart-museum.org or by calling 570-346-7186.

About the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science and Art

Founded in 1908 and located in Scranton's historic Nay Aug Park, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general Museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. For over 100 years, the Museum has delighted the region with an ever-changing selection of exhibitions and programs.

The Everhart Museum is one of the region's leading resources for educational and cultural opportunities. Our programs encourage everyone to explore the wonders of the world - from mammoths to mosaics to mallards and masks.

MUSEUM HOURS: Mon., Thurs., & Fri., Noon to 5:00 pm; Sat. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sun. Noon to 5:00 pm. Admission: \$7/adults, \$5/students & seniors; \$3/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members.