

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome since I joined The Discovery Center family in January. It has been a pleasure getting to meet and work with everyone. As this school year and fiscal year are coming to an end, I wanted to take a moment to personally thank our volunteers. The Discovery Center wouldn't be the success it is without your generous time and dedication to the organization.

After 11 years and 55 speakers, I'd like to thank Dr. Dick Elsley for leading the Science Speaker Series and securing the great speakers and programs for the series. A special thank you to Carmela Elsley for being the gracious hostess for our speakers. Thank you for the team of volunteers who welcome everyone to the event, get guests checked in, and make sure the program runs smoothly. Thank you Dick, Carmela, Peg DeRoss, Bob Palevac, Carol Knowles, Mike Newlon, Lorraine Newlon, and Susan Keane for your time and dedication to make the Science Speaker Series successful.

We had a great year with Family Science Nights at various schools throughout the county. Thank you to the team who set up all the different science stations, trained volunteers how to run each station, taught me all the things that are needed for the event, and getting all of the boxes of supplies to fit back in my van at the end of the evening. Thank you to Steve Yoshinaga, Gary Evans, Bruce Tucker, Steve Lathshaw, Tom Horan, Kristin Majda, Charles Seabury and Megan Verardo for your time to the program ensuring families have a fun science evening.

The DC Teens program has had a great year of science presentations, meetings, teaching science to children at Bridges, and friendship. Thank you to Matthew Couch and Paul Kobrin for leading these young adults and helping them grow their interests in the science. Thank you for your kindness and generous time and support to make the DC Teens program great.

The RAYS (Reading Awakens Young Scientists) program brings reading and science to the classroom with fun stories complimented with engaging science activities. Thank you to Barbara Karplus, Rod Womer, and Marjorie Barr for leading the classroom programs, developing the program curriculum, and aligning the program with the NGSS standards. Thank you also to Barbara for securing additional volunteers through family and friends when we needed more hands. Thank you for your generous time and dedication that has made this a favorite program in classroom.

The Planetarium is one of our growing programs and will have been to schools, camps and city programs throughout the county. Thank you, Rick Wells for being our astronomer, hauling the equipment, setting up the dome and projector, and cheerfully teaching students about our universe.

I deeply appreciate all of the volunteers who support The Discovery Center and make sure that all of our programs run smoothly, are organized, and are successful. You truly are the heart of this organization.

I will be working with our board in the upcoming months to develop strategic planning and next steps for The Discovery Center. Stay tuned for more details.

Elementally yours,

Anne Thille
Executive Director